Hafa Adai!

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Bill seeks to exempt low wage earners from income tax. PAGE 5

Whole-day entertainment at 2009 Pistang Pinoy. PAGE 12

WHO declares global pandemic

No confirmed case of H1N1 in NMI

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The CNMI Department of Public Health assured yesterday it has the capability to test patients for flu, after the World Health Organization raised the worldwide pandemic alert level to Phase 6.

"We are doing the prescribed testing; that's why we are sending some of the tests to San Antonio,

See WHO on Page 4

Ex-receiver accuses Fitial of fraudulent misrepresentation

Sues Gregory, Baka over previous BoS scandal

By FERDIE DE LA TORR
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REPORTER

The former receiver of the Bank of Saipan filed a lawsuit in federal court yesterday containing allegations that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial committed fraudulent misrepresentation when he was then acting president and chief executive officer of the bank.

Randall T. Fennell, however, did not name Fitial a defendant in the suit. Instead, Fennell sued former acting Attorney General Matthew T. Gregory, acting AG Gregory Baka,

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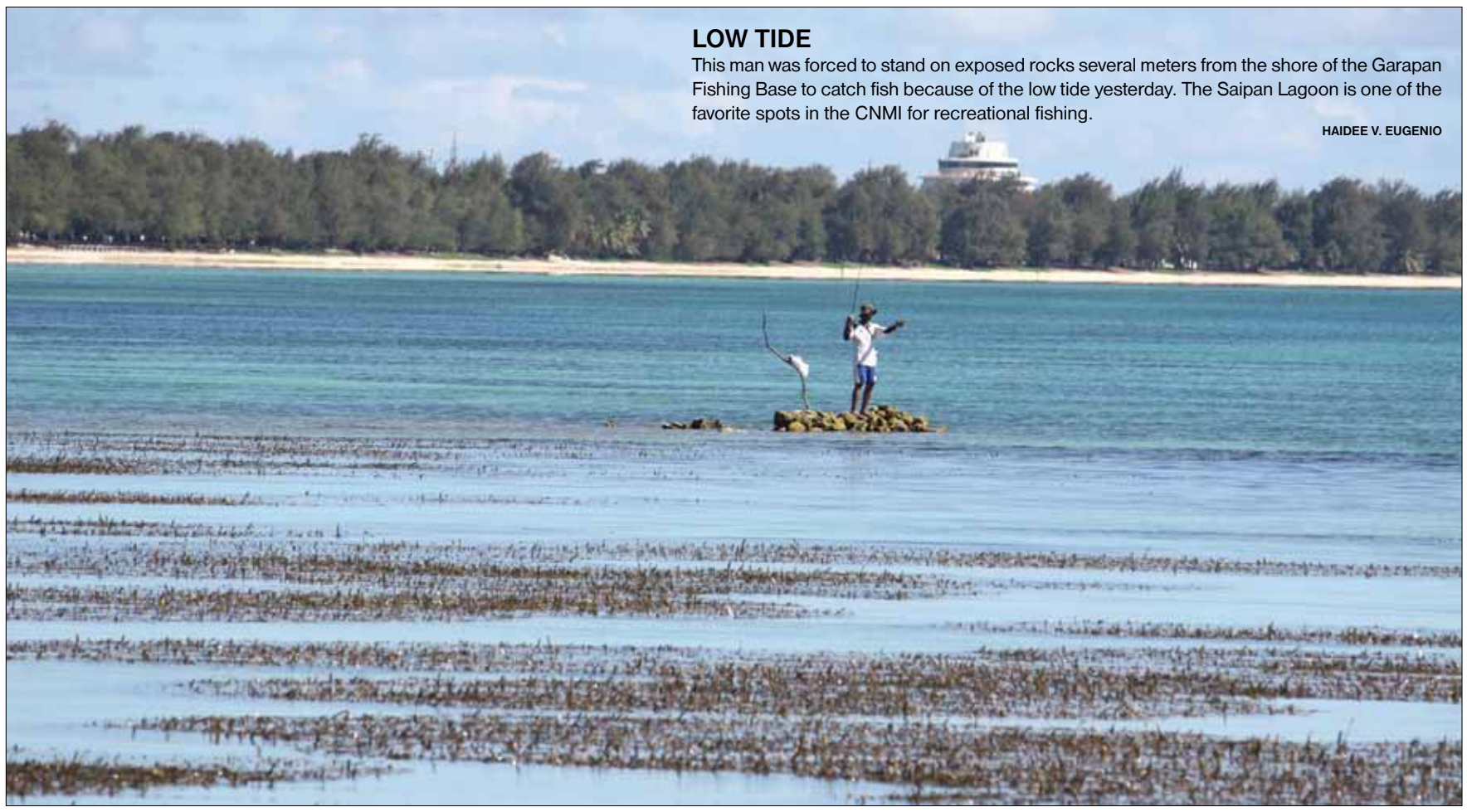

LOW TIDE
This man was forced to stand on exposed rocks several meters from the shore of the Garapan Fishing Base to catch fish because of the low tide yesterday. The Saipan Lagoon is one of the favorite spots in the CNMI for recreational fishing.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Lack of prosecution stymies efforts vs prostitution, illegal cabs

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Police Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela yesterday raised concern about the lack of prosecution involving those arrested by police in connection with prostitution, loitering, illegal taxi cab operations and other crimes affecting tourism, especially in the tourist district of Garapan.

"For example, during the last time we did a sting operation and we arrested 16 women for prostitution, all of them have since been released. They're back on the street doing the same thing," Tudela told *Saipan Tribune.*

In that sting operation, the Department of

See LACK on Page 4

From left, Rep. Ed Salas (R-Saipan), Rep. Joe Reyes (R-Saipan), Department of Labor's Jeff Camacho, Division of Immigration's Tony Sablan, and Public Safety Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela at yesterday's meeting in the House chamber, to address concerns on prostitution, illegal taxicabs and other issues in the tourist district of Garapan. The House Committee on Commerce and Tourism, chaired by Reyes, called for the meeting.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support a further one-year delay in federalization to Nov. 28, 2010?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS
PHASE 6
As of June 12, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

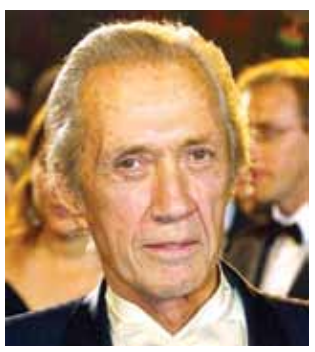
Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Anti-Smoking
The Senate struck a historic blow against smoking in America.
NATION...Page 10



No Suicide
The expert hired by David Carradine's family has concluded that the "Kung Fu" actor did not commit suicide.
LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

Local

14 Deepstar employees certified as sub technicians

A total of 14 employees of Pacific Subsea completed the year-long training required for technical certification aboard the company's submarine, according to the organization's vice president Jack McClure.

McClure, along with company president Steve Nutting, recently awarded certificates of completion to the graduates.

Pacific Subsea's submarine *Deepstar* operates in the Saipan lagoon and caters to both tourists and locals.

The submarine is a modern technical vessel requiring specific training under the strict control of the American Bureau of Shipping and United States Coast Guard, said McClure.

Both authorities inspect the submarine for vessel condition and crew certification. All training and certification is conducted according to USCG- and ABS-approved training programs.

Under U.S. law, officers aboard the submarine must be U.S. citizens and hold USA Merchant Mariners documents for this specific vessel. Officers must be supported by technicians who maintain the vessel under a strictly planned maintenance system.

"Our employees and graduates include technical people from many areas of expertise," said McClure. "We employ submarine pilots, co-pilots, and technicians with backgrounds in electronics, hydraulics, pneumatics, and other technical skills."

The certificate ceremony was followed by a graduation party at Pacific Subsea's lower base facility. The graduates' families and other guests attended. ***(PR)***

Pacific Subsea employees show off their certificates after completing the year-long training required for technical certification aboard the company's submarine, *Deepstar.* CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Quichocho, Hofschneider get top honors in TES' promotion

Tinian Elementary School promoted 34 sixth graders to junior high school during a ceremony on Wednesday.

Nikki Quichocho was named the class's top student, receiving the school's Commissioner Award from the public school's education chief, Rita A. Sablan.

Quichocho is the daughter of Marivic and Edward Quichocho.

Malena Hofschneider achieved the second-highest honor by garnering the Principal's Award. Hofschneider is the daughter of Tania Marie Hofschneider.

The school also recognized the hard work of other students by naming them on the Top Ten list, which included Quichocho, Hofschneider, Aura Lie Quichocho, Pamela Barcinas, Darsha Camacho, Zoe Zinnia Borja, Joerel Henry San Nicolas, Henry Sandergen, Ha'ani Reyes, and Brittany San Nicolas.

According to TES principal Maria Rios, the majority of the promoted students will attend Tinian Junior High School in September.

In her message to the graduates, the principal told students to persevere, to trust themselves, and to break down complicated tasks into more manageable portions.

The occasion was attended by Board of Education chairwoman Lucy Blanco-Maratita, board member Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Tinian Sens. Joseph Mendiola and Henry San Nicolas, councilwoman Sharlene Lizama, and the mayor's representative, William Cing. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Top Ten students of Tinian Elementary School during the promotional ceremony on Tinian Wednesday.

Seman and Yamagishi are top awardees at GES rites

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Eleven-year-old Jessie Mae Ayuyu Seman was pleasantly surprised to learn that she has been chosen by Garapan Elementary School teachers to be this year's recipient of the Commissioner's Award, the school's highest honor.

Seman, who bested six other finalists, was named the most deserving recipient this year by a committee that said community involvement and academics were taken into account when choosing the awardee.

JESSIE MAE AYUYU SEMAN
Commissioner's Award

ZACKERY YAMAGISHI
Principal's Award

Seman was student council president and an active member of the National Junior Honor Society and the Girl Scouts.

She also received the Presidential Excellence Award, the Perfect Attendance Award, and one of five Mallard awards during the promotion rites held yesterday.

"I am so happy because I made my mother very proud and happy today," said Seman. "I did it for her."

The second highest honor fell to Zackery Yamagishi, who achieved the Principal's Award.

Like Seman, Yamagishi credited his mother Lynn Duenas for his success.

"I thank her so much…because I can't get all this without her by my side," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Seman and Yamagihi both admitted that they're excited to start junior high school at Hopwood.

Yesterday's short ceremony was held at Saipan World Resort. Principal Yvonne R. Pangelinan, along with GES teachers, treated the students to the water park to celebrate their promotion.

In her message to students, Pangelinan urged, "Do one amazing thing this summer! Amazing doesn't have to be big, expensive or fancy. Amazing can mean finding a new talent, or nurturing a growing one, finally doing something that you always wanted to, like finally getting the nerve to sing in front of people or volunteering in your community and so much more. Also, never stop reading!"

GES named Don Sulat the recipient of the overall Mallard award. He emerged top on a list of five nominees that included Jacqueline Lepauch, Madoka Takagi, Gregzon Fontanilla, and Seman.

Another list of top ten students included Mariana Fan, Yamagishi, Malaina Kileleman, Shandel Cayabyab, Carmelito Gutierrez, Noel Jimenez, Prince Peter, Leeza Mae Grace Dowez, Madoka Takagi, and Don Taisacan.

Kindergarten promotion

Last Thursday, GES conducted promotional ceremonies for its Kindergarten students and treated them to a field trip around the Garapan school zone.

"The intent of the learning field trip was to orient students with the PSS bus rules. As first grade students next year, they may choose to ride the school bus and need to know all of the safety rules. They also drew maps to their houses and were able to locate their particular bus stop. The children were very excited to ride the big yellow bus for the very first time," Pangelinan said, adding that the students were also treated to a barbeque picnic at Micro Beach yesterday.

Kindergarten promotees who were named Mallard awardees were Kyle Jastillana, Maya Shimizu, Stephenny Pangelinan, and Dillan Joaquin Cruz.

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Native Hawaiian bill obtains a new airing

WASHINGTON (AP) — Prospects have never looked more promising for a bill that would give Native Hawaiians the chance to establish their own government and eventually gain control over valuable land and resources.

Hawaii's congressional delegation has for several years sponsored legislation that lays out how a Native Hawaiian government could be recognized by the United States, much like the arrangement that has occurred with 562 Native American tribes and Alaska Natives. The legislation twice passed the House of Representatives, including most recently in October 2007, but it routinely has stumbled in the Senate.

The election of President Barack Obama has changed the political dynamic though. The Bush administration made it clear it opposed the bill. Meanwhile, Obama, who was born in Hawaii, promises to sign the legislation if he gets the chance.

"It's very, very favorable for us," said Democratic Rep. Neil Abercrombie. "The president is well aware of Hawaii. It's not an exotic outpost or extraction, as it is for so many people. He understands the rationale ..."

The House Committee on Natural Resources takes up the bill, named for Democratic Sen. Daniel Akaka on Thursday. A vote is not expected, but Abercrombie said he believes that Congress will pass the legislation before the end of the year, in part because 2009 marks the 50th anniversary of Hawaii becoming a state.

The bill would not automatically establish a Native Hawaiian government. Rather, it would provide a roadmap for how Native Hawaiians could organize such a government.

"It's providing them with an opportunity to help themselves, giving them some self-determination as indigenous Hawaiians," Akaka said.

Once established, the new government would negotiate with the state and the federal government over which assets the new government would own. Currently, the state administers 1.2 million acres of former monarchy land, and some of that land could revert to the new Native Hawaiian government.

"It's essentially an enabling act" that would allow Native Hawaiians the chance to manage land and assets as they see fit, Abercrombie said. "When the land wasn't worth anything and there was no money, nobody cared. Now that the land is worth a considerable amount of money, now all of a sudden, everybody is interested."

LACK

From Page 1

Public Safety and other enforcement agencies sought the help of visiting U.S. sailors to pose as "customers to solicit" services of suspected prostitutes, Tudela said.

In yesterday's meeting with members of the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism and other agencies in the House chamber, Tudela said the lack of prosecution not only defeats the law but also hurts the morale of police officers who made the arrests on probable cause.

Jeff Camacho, officer-in-charge of the Department of Labor's Enforcement Unit, said labor personnel do not have authority to arrest workers on suspicion of illegal stay in the CNMI if they come across them.

Other issues that were brought up at the meeting included the non-functioning surveillance cameras in the tourist district of Garapan, the parking meters that were installed years ago but never used, the presence of only three police officers in Garapan's Koban, the sight of parked or moving vehicles in the district with scantily clothed women inside, and representatives of business establishments grabbing tourists by the hand.

Rep. Joe Reyes (R-Saipan), chairman of the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism, said the purpose of the meeting was to bring together all enforcement and tourism agencies to try to address problems with prostitution, illegal taxicab operations and other crimes that taint the CNMI's image as a family-oriented tourist destination.

"We agree that there are problems but we're not here to point fingers at each other or blame others. We need to work together to address the problems," Reyes said.

Tudela and Police Officer Vicente Sablan also told lawmakers that the Department of Public Safety does not receive any update from the Office of the Attorney General on the status of cases prosecuted, if they are at all prosecuted.

"We make arrests, they're put to jail for hours, they post bail and they're free again. Once it's with the Attorney General's Office, we won't know of the status of the case," Tudela said, adding that the courts also do not provide DPS information on the conditions of release of individuals arrested.

Of the agencies invited by the legislative committee, only the OAG did not send a representative.

Reyes said he will meet with a representative from the OAG, as well as the judiciary, before calling another meeting among agencies.

"We won't know why there's a breakdown of communication or lack of coordination but maybe the OAG also has some problems. I would be sitting down with them to talk about the things discussed today," Reyes said in an interview after the meeting.

'Not afraid of police anymore'

During the meeting, Tudela said individuals suspected of engaging in prostitution in Garapan "are not afraid of police anymore."

"They know that even if they're arrested, they'll be able to go back on the street," said Tudela, and the others in the House chamber chuckled.

The police commissioner said individuals suspected of engaging in illegal activities "seem to be more afraid of Labor and Immigration officers" because they may be deported if they're found to be "overstayers" or working illegally.

DPS also said police officers cannot just arrest anybody on suspicion of engaging in prostitution or ask for work permits without probable cause for human right violations.

Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) asked DPS whether it tracks down the number of arrests made, to which DPS said they do, and will provide the committee with this information.

"But once it's with the AGO, we won't know what would happen to the case," Tudela repeated.

Perry Tenorio, managing director of the Marianas Visitors Authority, thanked the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism for taking a pro-active approach in addressing illegal activities especially in the tourist district of Garapan before they get out of control.

"Our image as a family-oriented tourist destination is hurt by these illegal activities," said Tenorio.

Officials at the meeting said prostitution and other illegal activities are not unique to the CNMI but at least the Commonwealth is doing something to address them.

A member of the public, Phil Kalen, told lawmakers that if the government cannot control prostitution, then maybe it's time to consider legalizing and taxing the industry to generate revenue.

Rep. Ed Salas (R-Saipan) said while some of the tinted cars parked in certain areas of Garapan are suspected of carrying prostitutes, they have passengers that exceed the maximum number allowed by law and this alone should make them subject to inspection.

Others who attended the meeting were Immigration deputy director Tony Sablan, Department of Commerce's David Palacios and David Maratita of the Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco Control Division.

In an interview later, Reyes gave credit to the enforcement agencies for doing the best they can given their limited resources.

Reyes said the committee called for the meeting because of persistent complaints from legitimate business owners and other concerned citizens about prostitution and illegal taxis. "These activities reflect very poorly on Saipan as a family friendly tourist destination," he told the agencies.

EX-RECEIVER

From Page 1

and assistant attorneys general Anthony Welch and Tom J. Schweiger for conspiracy, obstruction of justice, and deprivation of rights.

Twenty unnamed persons were also included as co-defendants.

Press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. said yesterday this is no longer a relevant issue because Bank of Saipan has been successfully rehabilitated when Tony Muña replaced Fennell as receiver for the bank.

Reyes said Fitial took step to help the bank and to avoid panic among depositors.

"The main point here is Bank of Saipan is safe. The depositors got their money back," Reyes stressed.

Saipan Tribune tried but failed to get comments from Gregory, Baka and other co-defendants.

Fennell, through counsel Mark B. Hanson, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to pay him damages and attorneys' fees. He demanded payment for the insurance proceeds spent in defending claims by the defunct Marianas Public Lands Authority and in seeking action from the Office of the Attorney General.

Hanson said that beginning sometime in 2001 and continuing up until their arrest by federal authorities in April 2002, a group of purported investors—Bert Douglas Montgomery, DuSean Berkich, and Michael T. Wilson, and then BOS chief executive officer Thomas B. Aldan (Montgomery group)—attempted to purchase a controlling interest in the BOS.

As a result of the negotiations and after discussions with the bank's board of directors in November 2001, the major shareholders of BOS agreed to sell to the Montgomery group all shares of the major shareholders for a controlling interest in the bank.

In April 2002, members of the Montgomery Group were arrested and indicted on charges of conspiracy to defraud BOS.

The incident deflated depositors' confidence in the bank, prompting a bank run. This resulted in BOS asking the CNMI Commerce secretary to place the bank under receivership.

In April 2002, the attorney general and Commerce secretary approached Fennell and asked him to act as receiver for BOS, as he had previous experience being receiver for the Commonwealth Bank of the Northern Marianas Inc.

Hanson said Fennell initially agreed to act as the temporary receiver for a period not to exceed 30 days. The appointment was later extended.

"Fennell undertook a preliminary investigation to determine the condition of the bank and the courses of its failure. What the investigation uncovered was shocking," the lawyer said.

For example, Hanson cited that, in an attempt convince the MPLA and the NMI Retirement Fund that their deposits with the bank were secure—deposits of almost $14 million—Fitial, as acting president and chief executive officer and the chairman of the BOS board, signed and sent on March 15, 2002, and April 8, 2002, identical letters to both the Fund and MPLA purporting to pledge $5.39 million in U.S. securities as security for their deposits.

In this pledge letters, Hanson said, Fitial also fraudulently represented to MPLA and the Fund that certain BOS loans—known by the bank to be "bad loans"—were being pledged along with the U.S. securities as "100 percent collateral."

But in fact, Hanson said, the securities and the bad loans were being pledged twice to the same depositors, and the sum total of the U.S. securities and the bad loans were substantially less than the total deposits of MPLA and the Fund combined.

The lawyer said Fennell's further investigation uncovered evidence that the BOS board and in particular Fitial had actual knowledge of the involvement of the Montgomery group in a fraud perpetrated on the First International Bank of Grenada, and that board members had lied to federal investigators about his knowledge prior to the arrest of the Montgomery group.

The receiver's investigation, Hanson said, revealed that MPLA's attorneys, including Gregory, while claiming a security interest in the U.S. securities and bad loans held by BOS, had done no due diligence with regard to Fitial's claims of the pledge of the bank assets as security for the government deposits—due diligence that would have revealed Fitial's fraud on MPLA and the Fund.

Further, Hanson said, neither MPLA nor its attorneys, including Gregory, took any action to perfect a security interest in the BOS U.S. securities nor in the bad loans proposed as collateral—in effect committing legal malpractice.

WHO

From Page 1

Texas for evaluation," said acting DPH Secretary Pete Untalan. "This means that we have the capacity and means to transport. We are part of the U.S. Defense Global Influenza Surveillance network."

Since May 31, DPH has already sent 20 tests to the Texas clinic for further evaluation. Of that number, three tested positive for flu but not with the subtype category of H1N1.

At the moment, there is no confirmed H1N1 flu case in the CNMI yet, DPH said.

The WHO's decision to raise the alert level to Phase 6 indicates that a global pandemic is underway but DPH said there is no need to panic.

Untalan said those speculating that DPH has no capacity to test for the H1N1 virus are only creating panic.

He said DPH will continue its community medication activities and increase surveillance as well as mitigation procedures such as urging people to observe proper hygiene, staying at home if they are sick, covering their mouth when sneezing and avoid public places when they are not feeling well.

"These are the things that people are expected to do to prevent the further spread of the virus. We have to increase community awareness," Untalan said.

DPH will also continue to screen incoming visitors at the airport and they have met with travel agents to let them know about the situation and the mitigation activities that DPH is implementing.

Untalan explained that the H1N1 virus is not virulent and contracting the flu is a combination of complicated health matters.

"It's infectious, that's why WHO raised the pandemic alert level to 6. All corners of the world are affected," he said.

He said some people die from it because they have complications, such as an existing respiratory illness, when they get infected with the H1N1.

According to DPH's latest health update, WHO's decision to raise the pandemic alert level to Phase 6 is a reflection of epidemiological changes in other parts of the world and not a reflection of any change in the novel H1N1 virus or associated illness. The elevation to Phase 6 is an indicator of spread of H1N1 and not its severity.

There are no changes to CDC's recommendations for individuals and communities.

DPH says that if you are sick, stay home for seven days after your symptoms begin or until you have been symptom-free for 24 hours, whichever is longer.

As of June 11, WHO reported 74 countries with 28,774 cases of H1N1 and 144 deaths.

Bill seeks to exempt low wage earners from income tax

Rep. Joe Reyes (R-Saipan) is drafting a bill to exempt low wage earners—or those earning $25,000 or less annually—from paying personal income tax.

His proposal seeks to amend the income tax brackets to stimulate economic activity and growth within the CNMI.

"Amending the income tax brackets will result in revenue loss being collected from the low wage earning individuals, but will be offset by the income tax collected from the higher wage earning individuals," Reyes said.

The funds not paid in income taxes because of the proposal are also expected to be spent in the local economy and result in economic growth for the CNMI, he added.

He is proposing a 6 percent income tax on those earning between $25,001 and $50,000 annually, and an 8 percent income tax on those earning between $50,001 and $100,000.

Those earning over $10,001 annually will have an income tax of 10 percent under his proposal.

Reyes, chairman of the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism, said one of the most effective means of helping the economy recover is to improve the incentives that drive economic activity by way of reducing tax rates on personal income.

In his draft bill, he cited the Bush administration's tax cuts which many credited for moving the economy out of recession, as well as the 18 percent cut in personal taxes by the U.S. Congress in 1964 to spur economic growth.

Reyes also cited articles in Celtia.info and the Herald Tribune which say that tax cuts have shown positive results in Celtic countries and in Poland, Slovakia and Hungary before their entry in the European Union.

Earlier, Reyes also pre-filed a bill exempting businesses with annual total gross revenue of less than $50,000 from paying gross revenue taxes.

In an interview, Reyes said he'd rather see businesses that are not making much money to stay in operation rather than shut down operation altogether. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

Deportation sought for man convicted of piracy

The Division of Immigration has filed a deportation case against a man who was convicted in federal court in connection with the seizure of thousands of pirated DVDs and VHS tapes at a video shop.

Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman ordered Min Jo to appear in court on July 9 and explain why he should not be deported from the CNMI.

Immigration investigator Nicolas T. Reyes stated in his report that Jo, a Korean citizen, had pleaded guilty to trafficking in counterfeit labels during a Dec. 9, 2008, hearing in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Reyes said the court placed the defendant on three years of probation and referred him to Immigration for deportation.

The investigator said Jo is a deportable alien as he failed to comply with the terms and conditions of his entry.

Jo and his manager, Il Cho, were arrested a few weeks after the Federal Bureau of Investigation raided Seoul Video Store in Chalan Kanoa on March 26, 2008.

After the arrest, Cho and Jo admitted that they purchased DVDs from Korea and were copying them onto VHS tapes for sale and rent to customers.

Cho also entered a guilty plea and was given the same sentence. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

NEWS BRIEFS

Missile frigate *Thach* to arrive tomorrow

The USS *Thach*, a 453-foot guided missile frigate with approximately 230 officers and crew, will arrive on Saipan tomorrow, June 14, in the ship's first visit to Saipan. While on Saipan, representatives of the *Thach* will attend some of the 65th commemoration events and will also participate in a community relations project. The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be represented at the onboard arrival briefing, and the Chamber and VFW Post 3457 will welcome the officers and crew at a joint reception at Hard Rock Cafe on Monday evening at 6pm. The Chamber will exchange plaques with the *Thach* at the reception. The *Thach* is scheduled to depart Wednesday morning. ***(PR)***

Meeting for upcoming Pesticide Amnesty

The Division of Environmental Quality will hold an informational public meeting next week, Thursday, June 18, about the upcoming Pesticide Amnesty.

"This amnesty is a collection of pesticide and related hazardous wastes that require disposal due to age, condition of containers, contamination, no labels unregistered or cancellation," said Reina Camacho, the project coordinator. "If you are a farmer or work with pesticides [in places] such as golf courses, hotels, and termite and pest control businesses, this is a one-time opportunity to properly dispose of your unused, unwanted pesticides and related hazardous wastes."

DEQ has announced that hazardous wastes permits are not required to participate.

The Amnesty is scheduled for July 16 on Saipan at the Kagman Agricultural Station; July 17 at the Sunset Villa building on Rota; and July 18 on Tinian at the DPW fenced area.

For information, visit www.deq.gov.mp or call Camacho at 664-8500. ***(PR)***

NMC English placement test schedule

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting English placement tests for Summer Session II and the Fall 2009 semester on July 2 from 1pm-4pm, Aug. 3 at 1pm-4pm; Aug. 5 at 5pm-8pm; Aug. 6 at 1pm-4pm; Aug. 13 at 5pm-8pm; and Aug. 14 at 9am-12pm. Tests on all dates will be held in Room D-1.

Registration for Summer Session II (July 6 – August 14) will continue until July 2. New students are required to take the English placement test before registering for classes.

Those who wish to take the test must bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils. No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time.

There is a $25 fee that must be paid in advance at the NMC Cashier (M-F, 9am –4pm). No one will be allowed into the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for either the placement test fee or the NMC application fee). Payment for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee.

Questions about the test should be directed to Mark Haag at the Languages & Humanities Department at (670) 234-5498 Ext. 2017 or Mona Camacho at Ext. 1242. ***(PR)***

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to 4 CMC, Div. 7, Section 7306 (i) of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Oceania Insurance Corporation is making its intention known of decreasing the company's paid-up capital and surplus in accordance with this statute.

LAURIE STURGES
Manager
Oceania Insurance Corporation
1st Flr. Chong's Bldg.
Pale Arnold Rd., Gualo Rai
PMB 557 Box 10000
Saipan, MP 96950

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370, SAIPAN, MP 96950

Head Start Policy Council Agenda

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a Special Joint Meeting with the CNMI State Board of Education on June 18, 2009 (Thursday) from 10:30am – 1:30pm at Giovanni's Conference Room, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Garapan.

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Quorum
4. Adoption of Agenda

II. Public Comments

III. New Business
A. Action Items:
1. Approval of Head Start Expansion Grant Application
2. Approval of Revised Supplemental Grant Application

IV. Executive Session

V. Next Meeting

VI. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session. Pursuant to our Policy 8000, Public Comments are limited to 15 minutes; therefore comments are limited to 3 minutes each.

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Ms. Candace Quitugua at 664-3751.

/s/ Mr. Vinnie Sablan
Chairperson

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Second Floor Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

PUBLIC NOTICE

OVERSTAYERS REPORT

Friday, June 5, 2009, First Publication
Friday, June 12, 2009, Second Publication

Notice is hereby given that, according to the records maintained by the Commonwealth as of June 1, 2009, the following persons have overstayed the permission granted upon their entry to the Commonwealth for employment purposes. Persons in an overstayer status are required to depart the Commonwealth immediately. Persons who depart the Commonwealth voluntarily are eligible to return; those who are deported are not eligible to return.

Permissions granted upon entry may have been extended or the entry status may be changed under a number of different provisions of the Commonwealth law, but all extensions and changes must be documented and the applicable fees paid. If the necessary applications and supporting document have not been correctly completed, filed, or recorded, a name may appear in overstayer status although an extension may have been granted upon completion or recording of the necessary documentation.

If your name is on the list set out below and you have or should have a current status allowing you to be in the Commonwealth, please report to Dennis Cabrera, Division of Administrative Hearing Office, Second Floor, Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, Saipan, no later than **June 19, 2009**, to correct the records.

Name	LIDS No.
*****, EDRIS	141329
ADELANTAR, RICARDO R	117612
ADONAY, EMME BILLONES	135187
AGUISANDA, FRANCISCO MALANA	311892
ALBARICO, HELEN S	158401
AMZANILLA, REYNALDO C	291887
ARMEA, EDWIN RUBARES	301456
AZURIN, AGELITO C	292688
BALGOA, ARNEL PADAMA	313300
BAQUIRAN, VICENTE BAJANDI	126548
BARBOSA, MILAGROS CESTINA	292175
BAS, ERWINA B	194548
BAUTISTA, EDELYN HEMO	295120
BELARDO, ALIEN DELOS SANTOS	311675
CABAHIT, WILLIAM L,	300511
CABUANG, ESPERANZA G	154110
CACERES, HENRY R	163318
CARIASO, MELWIN CARIASO	294776
CATBAGAN, NESTOR G	132345
CHEN, GENTU	310070
CHEN, RUI LIN	148624
CHEN, WENSHENG	160221
CHEN, ZHANGZHEN	290663
CORPUZ, AURORA AQUINO	297620
CRUZ, ROSABELLA P	145123
CUI, RENSHU	195077
DAI, YANWEI	310752
DAI, YUN XIAN	117501
DAIT, DANILO Q	106227
DE JESUS, ARTURO DELA CRUZ	294777
DELIM, LEILANI ORTIZ	295930
DOMINGO, MARCELINA TOMAS	174623
DONES, EMERITA	104116
EDRA, MIRIAM E	150225
FANG, ZHUFU	284843
FRANCISCO, ELENITA G	103869
FRANCISCO, RODOLFO	113200
GALIDO, GEORGE RANESES	120410
GALLARDO, ALFREDO ESTEPA	121713
GU, SHENG RONG	281218
GULAYAO, ELMA COSMIANO	192242
GUTIERREZ, WILFREDO M	120533
HAN, CHUNYAN	312307
HUANG, FEICHUAN	302657
HUANG, YAN	136992
INGEL, ROBERT	109646
INOT, RAFAEL JR ACERO	172745
INSEE, MISS SUCHADA	109633
JIANG, XI FENG	156550
JIN, CAIYU	103534
JIN, YINGMIN	298775
K.C., NIRMALA	313072
KANG, BYOUNG DONG	205469
KHOKSEEAMNUAY, NIRUBON	120649
KIM, HYUNG JIN	142887
KUANG, YONGNIAN	297967
LADRINGAN, AVE SAHAGUN	302820
LAPID, ELMER M	132341
LI, GUOZHEN	152510
LI, SHUQIONG	194233
LI, XUE GUANG	137759
LI, ZHIQIU	137021
LOZANDE, MARIANO L	163021
LUBRICA, GENOVEVA A	160602
LUO, GUOQIANG	292508
MA, ZHIYONG	205266
MAGNO, RONALD A	116931
MANGHNANI, LAXMAN KANHIYA LAL	312963
MANTALA, ARMANDO REVILLA	294999
MIAH, BABUL	128894
MIRAM, REYNALDO M	151826
MONDAL, TARUN KUMAR	126717
MONTEFALCON, ONULIO NAVARRO	295013
NAPITAN, CESAR BAGAYNA	111380
NARTEA, REYNALDO SAMPAGA	299895
NGITIYEB, ZAIDA M	110384
PEREZ, MARINETTE AGUILAR	311850
PINEDA, JESUS P	109434
PINZON, ESTHER JO CARIAGA	190692
POTOT, GLENDA CASTILLO	312521
PRADO, MARCIANO DLC	194068
RANIT, JUANITO BRESTOL	173330
REPATO, VIOLETA S	146309
REYES, MARBIN PALOMAR	286521
SAGUCIO, OSCAR O	201281
SANTOS, ANGELITO B	150282
SANTOS, BERNABE TORRES	193103
SHEN, HEFAN	190500
SOBERANO, CAROLYN L	103199
SUMILANG, ROMEO S	112850
SUN, DANDAN	298501
SUN, SHUQING	148734
TABO, HERMINIGILDO B	147015
TANAKA, YUJI	310288
TUMARONG, HONELYN PAUTAN	312956
TUVIDA, AMALIA T	154298
VEGA, NASSAR ARCAN	101434
VIESCA, LEONILO GONZALES	200024
VILLANUEVA, MARIO E	157510
WANG, JU	303039
XIE, YULING	312308
YAN, HAIYAN	194021
YAO, DONG HUA	281201
YIN, YUZHEN	312306
ZHANG, JINJU	302413
ZHAO, MINGYAO	102332
ZHAO, YANG	287973
ZHENG, FENG LIN	127875
ZHENG, LI	291191
ZHOU, JIANFANG	298221
ZHOU, WEI	200028
ZHU, LIJU	201084
ZONG, SHIFANG	157955

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Iran's choice

Something odd has been happening in Iran recently. Young people are massing in the streets of Tehran, blaring rap music, forming human chains and dancing in political rallies that look more like all-night parties. Women are loudly demanding equal rights, and reformers are raucously criticizing the government.

It must be time for a presidential election.

Such frank exchanges of political views become acceptable in Iran every four years, though the current atmosphere has been described by many as the most heated since the 1979 revolution. This may be a backlash against the repressive policies of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, and a reflection of lessons learned by his opponents. In 2005, many reformers boycotted the national elections, resulting in a landslide victory for the populist religious scholar. This time, the younger, wealthier, more secular and urban voters who repudiate Ahmadinejad are making sure their voices are heard.

No matter who wins the race on Friday—and there's a good chance that none of the four candidates will attract the 50 percent of votes needed for victory, leading to a runoff June 19—it's unlikely to lead to dramatic changes in Tehran's policies. Though Mir-Hossein Mousavi, Ahmadinejad's main rival, is a far more moderate leader who rejects the incumbent's divisive anti-Western rhetoric and seems to have a better understanding of how to manage the nation's economy, he isn't the first reformer to run afoul of Iran's theocratic powers-that-be. Mohammad Khatami attracted similarly zealous followers demanding more freedom and accountability and won the presidency in 1997, but his agenda was speedily derailed by the conservative mullahs who control most government functions (and without whose blessing no candidate can run for office).

Still, a victory by Mousavi would send a powerful signal to the clerics that the people want a change in direction, and his more diplomatic approach to the West could help ease tensions across the Middle East. Conversely, a win by Ahmadinejad would show that the Obama administration faces an uphill struggle in improving relations with Tehran and reducing Iran's destabilizing influence on the region. Fortunately, President Obama isn't doing anything to help Ahmadinejad's campaign. His willingness to negotiate and his refreshing candor, including his acknowledgment last week of the United States' role in overthrowing Iran's democratically elected government in 1953, are making it much harder for Ahmadinejad to blame the U.S., rather than his own misrule, for his country's troubles.

In his inaugural address, Obama told hostile regimes around the world that "we will extend a hand if you are willing to unclench your fist." We'll find out Friday what kind of hand signals Iran wants to send.

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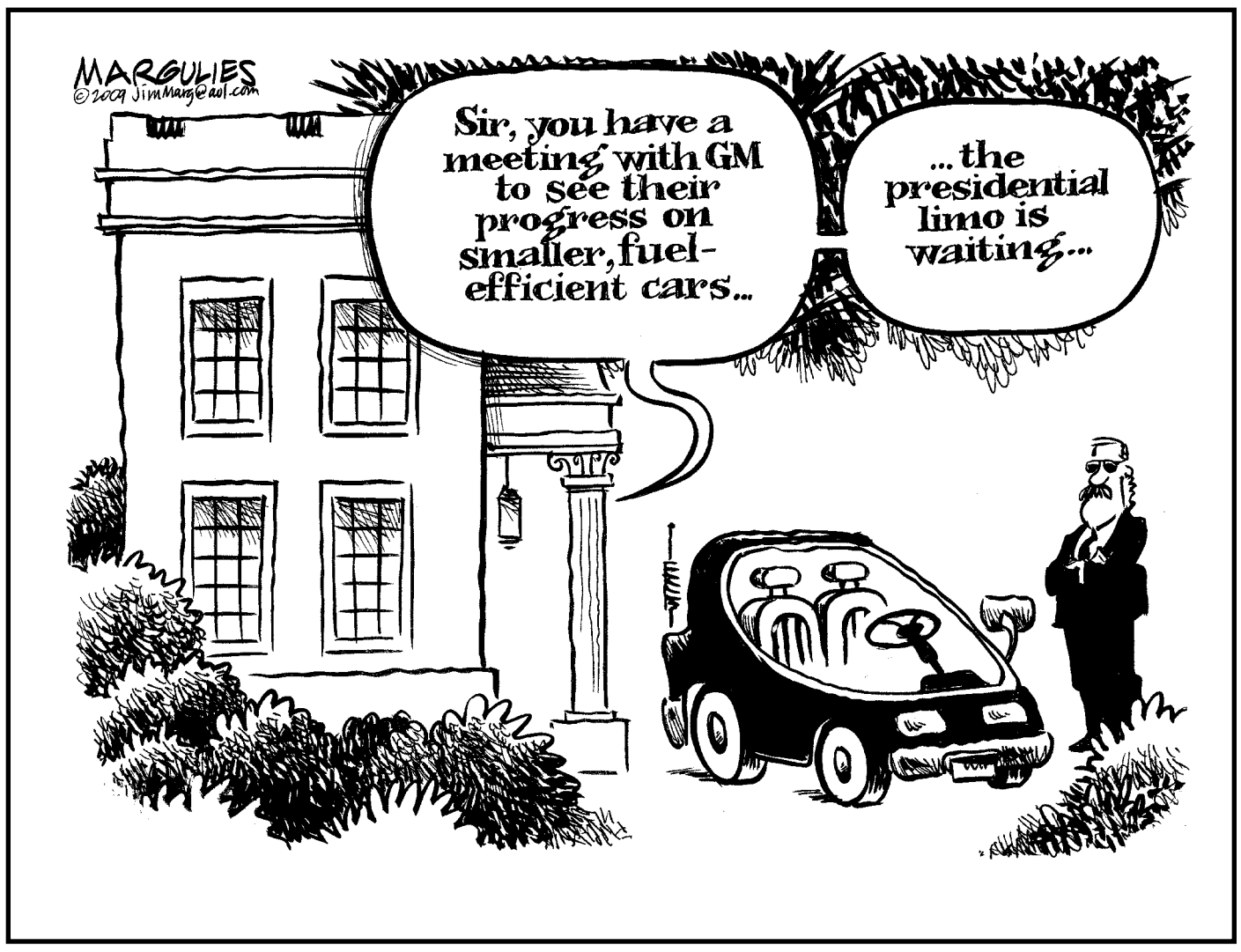
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Sir, you have a meeting with GM to see their progress on smaller, fuel-efficient cars...
...the presidential limo is waiting...

Why are women unhappy? Who knows?

By MEGHAN DAUM
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Daum is an essayist and novelist in Los Angeles. E-mail Daum at mdaum@latimescolumnists.com.

Women, it seems, are bummed out these days.

A study released last month from the National Bureau of Economic Research and the University of Pennsylvania showed that even though men's and women's happiness levels have declined over the past few decades, women's "subjective well-being" has declined "both absolutely and relatively to men." The data came from a cross-section of ethnic and socioeconomic groups in several industrialized countries, and appeared to be big news primarily for one reason: When the same research was conducted in the 1970s, women reported higher levels of happiness than they do today.

Is that because feminism turned out to be a total dud? Or were women in the '70s hypnotized into serenity by those yellow smiley faces? No one seems quite sure.

The research paper—which was presented by economists Betsey Stevenson and Justin Wolfers and will appear in a forthcoming issue of *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*—is rife with hypotheses but resists drawing conclusions. But that doesn't mean the commentariat didn't immediately weigh in. People went a little nuts over this study, most notably *New York Times* columnist Ross Douthat, who offered up a handful of theories as to why women aren't as cheery as they apparently were in the days of avocado-green appliances.

"The achievements of the feminist era may have delivered women to greater unhappiness," Douthat wrote. He also pointed out that the steady advance and de-stigmatization of single motherhood "threatens the interests and happiness of women." Furthermore, in a display of rhetorical showmanship that I appreciated for its boldness if not its conclusion, he wondered if women, who "prefer egalitarian, low-risk societies," were made anxious by "the cowboy capitalism of the Reagan era."

In fairness, Douthat allowed that "all this ambiguity lends itself to broad-brush readings." He wasn't saying the study proved any of his musings. He was just, you know, saying.

And shortly thereafter, a lot of other people joined the chorus: other columnists, bloggers and, presumably, the women at book-club meetings who would much rather discuss this sort of thing than discuss the book they're reading. Many of them took umbrage at Douthat's column, but more seemed intent on finding the source of this newly discovered malcontent. Was it overscheduling? Overparenting? A cultural obsession with physical appearance? Perhaps only Betty Friedan could know for sure.

The researchers, for their part, seem to have anticipated the avalanche of armchair analysis. In the paper, they address a handful of the more predictable assumptions and explanations, giving reasons as to why they're best kept within the realm of the theoretical.

Take, for example, two of the most common versus the actual wording of their paper.

Theory 1: The women's movement sold women a bill of goods. All it did was make them feel inadequate for not "having it all."

Stevenson/Wolfers: "If the women's movement raised women's expectations faster than society was able to meet them, they would be more likely to be disappointed by their actual experienced lives. As women's expectations move into alignment with their experiences, this decline in happiness may reverse."

Translation: "Having it all" is going out of fashion. When women stop trying to live up to that edict, they will be happier.

Theory 2: The demands on working mothers, particularly single mothers, are overwhelming and contribute to unhappiness.

Stevenson/Wolfers: "(When) we disaggregate the fertility results to consider trends in happiness separately among single parents and married parents ... we see similar trends in happiness ... casting doubt on the hypothesis that trends in marriage and divorce, single parenthood or work/family balance are at the root of the happiness declines among women."

Translation: Don't blame your kids, your job or your partner.

In other words, the upshot of the increase in female unhappiness seems to be that there's no upshot.

As a pusher of far-flung theories myself, I know how tedious it can be when the raw data don't line up with the stuff I yack about with my friends in wine bars. Like Douthat et al., when I first heard about the study, I immediately had a scapegoat too: Angelina Jolie. Her entire Oscar-winning, serial-adopting, Brad Pitt-snagging, plane-piloting, unattainably hot-looking existence makes women around the world feel hopelessly inadequate and therefore unhappy. I mean, duh.

But like all these explanations, that's a little bit too easy even if, to some, it also seems a little bit right. And as many have pointed out, "happiness" is ultimately an abstraction (not to mention in the eye of the beholder) and may simply defy quantitative measurement.

So why is it so hard to resist making a sport of figuring out why we are or aren't happy? Maybe because it's just that, a sport. Maybe because, as most women in book clubs know, talking about what's wrong with your life can be rollicking fun. We may not be happy, but we know how to have a good time. And that includes blaming Angelina.

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Beijing 2009

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

It is very clear from the rails and the buses, the highways and the air lanes that the China of my mother's admonition: "Think of all the starving kids in China," is no longer! The new prosperity of and in the country is staggering. And if there is anything manifestly abundant, it is food.

Rotund Chinese children are called *xiao pang xi* (i.e., cute), every mother's magic words she wants to hear of her children. Compared to the Kowloon of 1965, when I first stepped outside the Kuomintang sympathizing Fukienese of my neighborhood in Northern Luzon to the socialized Cantonese (Guangdong) masses in Ship Kip Mei, what were then CARE's poster children have since moved to exemplars for the Royal Food Co., Ltd. promotions.

Yet, still, today within the incense-scented wafting from the Tientan Temple of Heaven Park south of Tiananmen Square, are *hutong* (alley) street markets where at 9pm, the vegetable and fruit vendors discard some of their dated fresh produce, and not a few pajama-clad mothers sieve and sift through the refuse to retrieve still edible food items that might make the breakfast table. While this may mirror Chinese practicality in not allowing anything to go to waste, it also shows that not all are feasting around the merchants' table.

The nation is one big merchandizing campaign. Slightly north of the Tiananmen are two Metro stops on Subway Line 1: Xidan on the east and Wangfujiang on the west. Xidan has huge department stores, a new shopping Mecca for the young, whose hefty spendings support major consumer goods and fashion accessories. On both streets, anything that is hawked on Champs-Élysées, Ginza and Times Square is available at comparable prices.

Though Xidan has Times Square, the New York dynamic is found more at Wangfujiang, the older shopping street that is closed to motorized traffic and is exclusively pedestrian. Both sites have huge Chinese and foreign language bookstores, an investment that the Chinese government is reportedly making across the country to raise the level of literacy as well as support Sino-English 101, now that English has become the unofficial but de facto second language of the country.

At Wangfujiang's southern end is the venerable but overrated Beijing Hotel and its incongruous Outback Restaurant. Across the street are the famous double arches and Col. Sanders' chickens in buildings built and maintained by Taiwan investments which came flooding in, along with the Hong Kong dollar that skewed Vancouver and Toronto.

A *man'amko* bedecked in a pure silk light blue jacket and an informal mandarin shirt caught my fancy. Wanting to check out the price, in case I break down and spend my last *dinero* on a similar silk jacket and a shirt at a silk shop on Wangfujiang, I was confronted by Armani chic and price, high end Seville Row craft but way too rich for my wallet. I had seen faux silk with tailors that do uniforms for airlines and hotel staff, and they are not bad, which only goes to show that there are folks like me who are members of the 20 percent privileged in China's economy with developed Chateau Lafitte taste on a Tsingdao beer budget! Proletarian China has birthed its own privileged class, and an ardent following drools at the Sinocized heavenly gates.

If the commerce in Xidan and Wangfujiang are the present, reconstructed Qianmen Dajie is the past. Here in its romanticized shops and *hutongs,* gastronomic offerings are plebian. Beijing's cuisine is eclectic, but being the nation's center for the last 600 years, culinary delights constitute its artform.

On a misty evening, along the eastern wall of the Forbidden City, I was surprised to see homeless people staking territorial claims over benches as well as cozy spaces between the stacks of bricks slated for the repairs on the outer walkway. Walking down the underpass to the massive People's Congress building with its stoic uniformed guards and behind it, the egg-shaped yin-yang roofed National Performing Arts Center and its reflecting pool, I was shocked to see a figure lying on the floor no more than 20 meters away from the guard house where the uniformed personnel stood at rigid attention. The surprise is not that there was a person on the ground; it was the fact that evidently, the authorities do not make a big fuss of it, foreigners not withstanding. The nonchalance and indifference is almost free market democratic!

A homeless figure in the subway underpass at the Qianmen end of the Tiananmen Square would have been unthinkable 20 years ago. And yes, the signs that require people to carry IDs grate. The two incidents I witnessed of a Hassidic-looking old man, and a rural farmer visitor who appeared awkward with two plastic handbags in the urbane setting of the Tiananmen Square, stopped and scrutinized by 12 uniformed personnel, would incite citizens' riots elsewhere in the West.

The Beijing Olympic Park represents China's future. A downpour and misty weather accompanied my viewing of the Nest and the Natatorium, the Forrest Lake and the Olympic village. The eco-friendly Park could not hide the fact that we all live downwind and the coal-fired furnaces' smog are a menace that has to be dealt with, even in Beijing's Green Park. I commented that the quality of the construction was shabby, water dripping where it shouldn't, and one overseas Chinese retorted: "What do you expect? It is made in China!" We said that of Japan when I was young. Maybe, willful change can happen. One NGO planted 50 million trees through corporate sponsors. There is hope for Made-in-China.

The ¥uan/Renmimbi/Kuai is undervalued. 2¥ (30 US cents) for the Metro is cheap; 1¥ for a bus ride is a steal. A taxi's first three miles during the day is 8¥; one can go across Beijing from one wheat field to another for Y50 which is less than $10. Wonton soup for breakfast in my neighborhood is a quarter. Where I stayed in the North East and Beijing, double room occupancy with Internet cost $20 or less; shared bathroom dormitory style for backpackers can easily be a buck-and-a-half! But the currency is under pressure to seek its own free market level. Time for curious Chamolinians to start visiting China (Shanghai Expo 2010), and the International School to include China on its summer edu-trips!

False choices for Russia

By LEV GUDKOV, IGOR KLYAMKIN, GEORGY SATAROV and LILIA SHEVTSOVA
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

MOSCOW—As intellectuals and liberal Russians, we have read with great interest many recommendations American experts have compiled for President Obama regarding the U.S.-Russian relationship. While there are several constructive ideas, many of these reports reflect a serious misunderstanding of the situation in Russia and the course it is following.

We object, for example, to the basic proposition of calling for a return to realpolitik because some believe that the worsening of Russian-American relations was mainly caused by Washington's insistence on "tying policies to values." The result, some American "realists" argue, is that the United States needs to build a new relationship with Russia based on "common interests and common threats." Yet in blaming the Bush administration for trying to "teach" Russia about democracy, these realists appear to accept the official Russian position. In our view, America has ignored the problems of democracy and civil society in Russia, but even turning a blind eye did not prevent the breakdown in the U.S.-Russian relationship—and now Obama is essentially being asked to treat Russia as though it is incapable of democratic transformation.

While there is anti-democratic sentiment here, such feelings are not ubiquitous. In fact, nearly two-thirds of Russians would like to see the establishment of democracy and the rule of law, according to a 2008 Levada Center poll. The ruling elite oppose the development of democratic institutions, but the key is that members of the elite are more than ready to integrate into the Western world on an individually beneficial basis; they will do everything in their power to "protect" the rest of Russian society from the perils of such integration.

To be clear, we are not calling on our American democratic colleagues to "promote" democracy in Russia. Such efforts are counterproductive and ultimately serve only to discredit Russian democrats by helping the propaganda machine color them as agents of the West. But we do not understand how one can hope for cooperation while ignoring Russia's internal development and the principles on which the state functions.

In the Century Foundation report "Resurgent Russia and U.S. Purposes," Thomas Graham writes that Russia's national interests include being "a great power ... maintaining itself as the dominant influence in the former-Soviet space ... and constraining the United States." That is true about the Kremlin's interests. But Graham goes on to argue that "nothing in Russia's understanding of its interests precludes close cooperation with the United States on a wide range of issues critical to American security and prosperity." How can we build a relationship based on "common interests" if Russia's leaders see NATO expansion as a primary threat or if, as Graham wrote, their national interest is in "constraining" U.S. influence in the region?

Russian society views its national interests differently than does Russia's leadership. Polling has found that Russians are interested in making their country more open to the world and that they want to limit governmental abuse and corruption and create an independent judiciary. So we think that Americans ought to be clear, when referring to "Russian national interests," whether they mean those of the country at large or the current political regime.

Consider that in language strikingly similar to Kremlin rhetoric, the Commission on U.S. Policy Toward Russia, chaired by former Sens. Gary Hart and Chuck Hagel, recommends that Obama respect "Russian sovereignty, history and traditions and (recognize) that Russian society will evolve at its own pace." We hope that Americans understand Russian "traditions" differently than does the Kremlin propaganda machine. Implicit in many recent reports are the suggestions that the administration avoid discussing human rights and the obligations that Russia undertook when it joined the Group of Eight. The Hart-Hagel report also says that America should "establish a government-to-government dialogue on Russia's neighborhood, with a view to developing confidence-building measures." So Russia and the United States should decide the fate of Russia's neighbors? That sounds eerily like a return to the days of Yalta. When we read Thomas Graham's statement that Ukraine "occupies a special place in Russian thought: It is the cradle of Russian civilization and an essential element of Russia's own national identity," or that we should "Finlandize" Ukraine, we see the realists parroting Russian nationalist rhetoric.

We believe that cooperation on issues such as nonproliferation, Iran or trade will be successful only if our relationship is based on trust. If the Obama administration follows the suggestions of these "realists," rather than improving relations with Moscow its efforts will lead to more mutual disappointment at best. And sour relations with the United States always limit the space for liberalism in Russia. We believe Russia dearly needs to expand all sorts of ties with the United States and the West, but such cooperation must not come at the price of U.S. refusal to understand what is happening in Russia, or allowing Washington to ignore the fundamental nature of the Russian political system and to "repackage" old concepts of tactical maneuvering as a new foreign policy strategy.

Brookings Institution President Strobe Talbott helpfully proposed in February that the West "should create conditions that will, over time, convince the Russians that their post-Marxist, post-Soviet, Hobbesian experiment is, in fact, unrealistic. It simply won't work." We don't know why many American realists would make it easier for the Russian elite to remain ensconced in their Hobbesian microcosm. We recognize that transforming Russia is a job for Russians and that this is a task at which Russia's liberal forces are failing. But the task will be that much more difficult if American experts serve as the "conservators" of Russian authoritarian traditionalism.

Relations with Russia cannot be reduced to the false dichotomy of isolation or cooperation with an authoritarian regime. Such a choice is doomed either way. We hope that in his dealings with Russia, President Obama will show us the fresh thinking for which he is admired as well as his understanding of Russia's people, not just its leaders.

Lev Gudkov is director of Levada Center, an independent polling and research organization. Igor Klyamkin is vice president of the Liberal Mission Foundation. Georgy Satarov is president of the Russian nongovernmental organization Indem Foundation. Lilia Shevtsova is a senior associate at the Carnegie Moscow Center.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.
▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼79°

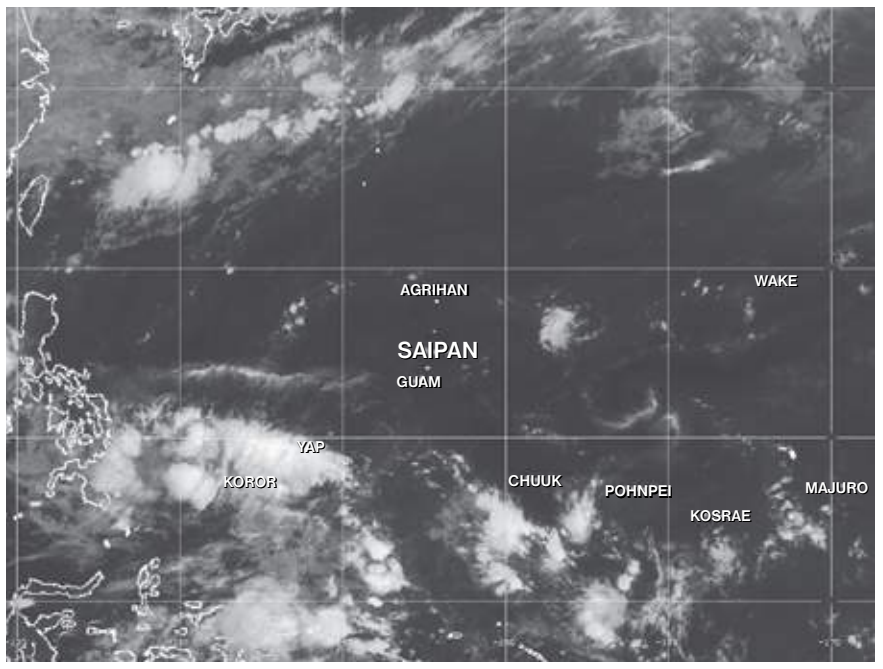
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲87	▼76
Palau	Rain	▲86	▼77
Yap	Rain	▲86	▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼74
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Majuro	Rain	▲85	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲58	▼53
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲93	▼61
Hong Kong	Showers	▲90	▼81
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼74
London	Showers	▲70	▼54
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲70	▼58
Manila	Rain	▲84	▼78
Melbourne	Showers	▲54	▼50
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89	▼78
New York	Cloudy	▲80	▼64
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲82	▼67
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲79	▼64
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼63
Rome	Sunny	▲87	▼64
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲71	▼53
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲68	▼56
Seoul	Showers	▲75	▼60
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲78	▼65
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲84	▼67

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends southeastward from 8N130E to a weak circulation west of Koror at 7N132E then southeastward to another circulation south of Pohnpei at 3N158E then eastward to end near EQ168E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are over a large area of Palau within 180 miles of a line from 8N130E to Koror to EQ138E. Another area of scattered showers are found south of Chuuk and Pohnpei within 120 miles of a line from 5N148E to EQ161E. Surface convergence near the east end of the monsoon trough is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southeast of Kosrae within 100 miles of a line from 1N165E to 6N170E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
5:43 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
9:58 AM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
5:20 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:48 PM
Sunday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM
Monday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM
Tuesday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM
Wednesday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:50 PM	10:01 AM
Sunday	11:26 PM	10:48 AM
Monday		11:36 AM
Tuesday	12:01 AM	12:24 PM
Wednesday	12:37 AM	1:14 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 9, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:30am	5:20am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

CO9598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
CO9312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-PALAU (ROR)

CO893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3, 5
CO953	6:50pm	7:50pm	1, 7
CO953	7:35pm	10:05pm	2, 4, 6

PALAU (ROR)-MANILA

CO893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3, 5

GUAM-MANILA

CO893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via ROR
CO933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR111	6:00am	7:45am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25am	Daily

GUAM-NARITA (NRT)

CO961	6:35am	9:10am	Daily
NW83	8:00am	1:55pm	Daily via KIX
CO6	12:00pm	2:45pm	Daily
NW73	4:05pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO963	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1
OZ119	4:20am	7:00am	4,6

GUAM-OSAKA (KIX)

NW83	8:00am	10:45am	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

GUAM-NAGOYA (NGO)

CO971	7:45am	10:30am	Daily
NW23	4:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO975	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	excl 1
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1 via KIX
OZ119	4:20am	11:20am	4, 6 via KIX

SEOUL (ICN)-HONG KONG

OZ721	9:05am	11:45am	Daily
OZ723	7:45pm	10:30pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-MANILA

OZ701	8:35am	11:25am	Daily
OZ703	7:50pm	10:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

CO9598	3:25am	4:00am	5, 6
CO9312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
CO9598	2:20am	4:00am	5, 6 via ROP
CO9596	7:00am	5:00am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily x6
CO9312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

CO9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

PALAU (ROR)-GUAM

CO954	1:10am	5:30am	3, 5, 7
CO954	1:45am	4:40am	1, 2
CO892	2:35am	5:30am	4, 6

MANILA-PALAU (ROR)

CO892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3, 5

MANILA-GUAM

CO892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3, 5 via ROR
CO934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR110	10:00pm	4:00am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:30pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	7:50pm	12:30am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-GUAM

NW74	10:00am	2:50pm	Daily
CO962	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
CO7	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
NW84	6:20pm	1:40am+1	Daily
CO964	8:25pm	1:00am+1	Daily
NW82	8:30pm	1:05am+1	4
NW82	8:30pm	1:20am+1	X 4

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6

OSAKA (KIX)-GUAM

NW84	9:05pm	1:40am+1	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-GUAM

NW24	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
CO970	11:30am	4:30pm	Daily
CO972	8:25pm	12:55am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	excl 7

HONG KONG-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ724	12:30am	5:05am	Daily
OZ722	1:15pm	5:45pm	Daily

MANILA-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ702	12:45pm	5:45pm	Daily
OZ704	11:50pm	4:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

JUNE 13, 2000

$1-M worth of 'ice' seized
Close to $1 million worth of crystal metamphetamine hydrochloride, popularly known as "ice", was seized by the CNMI Customs Services Saturday from a 25-year-old Korean national at the Saipan International Airport, in what could be the biggest drug confiscation on the island in last two years. Customs enforcement team on duty stumbled upon approximately four pounds of the illegal substance from incoming passenger Gim Mahn Soo after a thorough check of his luggage at the customs inspection area. Customs Director Joe Mafnas told a press conference the package containing "ice", well-concealed in the interior lining of a hard cover luggage, was detected with the aide of a K-9, a dog trained to detect illegal drugs.

Tougher tax law sought
A law must be put in place to boost tax collection efforts of the government amid moves by the Legislature to attract foreign investments into the CNMI, according to Commonwealth Development Authority Board Chair Juan S. Tenorio. Because the present collection system by the finance department is "lax," the island government may be losing millions of dollars in potential revenues from corporations that have dodged local tax laws, he said. "I fear that the influx of businesses due to new legislation will only result in increasing this vast pool of untaxed or unaccounted for business revenues," Mr. Tenorio said.

JUNE 13, 2001

MPLT: No money for new Tanapag tests
The Marianas Public Land Trust yesterday told legislators it does not have money to give for the new round of tests expected to determine the level of PCB and other toxic chemical contamination in Tanapag. The House of Representatives has been pressing MPLT to make $2 million available for the new PCB studies in the village, as called for by Tanapag residents. The funding deficit served as a major obstacle despite persistent efforts of Rep. Dino M. Jones to proceed with the new tests to determine the extent of contamination in the community. Jones bombarded Assistant Attorney General Murphy Peterson with inquiries on the possible date for the additional test and how long would it take until Tanapag can be submitted to another round of tests.

OIA seeks update on Kagman school project
The US Department of the Interior has requested for an updated report on the remedial work that was administered on Kagman Elementary School, a project still besieged with construction woes. The federal agency sought for the information, seeking assurance before committing to the possibility of employing another study to be conducted on what is conceived to be a "troubled" project from start to finish. Thomas Bussanich of the Office of Insular Affairs asked Department of Public Works Secretary Juan B. Cepeda for a report detailing actions undertaken by the project's contracting officer in addressing expert recommendations made by at least three firms.

JUNE 13, 2002

Relief now in sight Replacement of asbestos pipes nears
Long worried over the asbestos pipes through which some of their water flow through, residents of the China Town homestead area may now breath easier, with relief now in sight. Gov. Juan N. Babauta has signed into law the measure re-appropriating some $1.72 million that would go toward the replacement of the asbestos water pipes in the homestead-a move that ensures the future health of residents in the area. Asbestos has long been recognized as a toxic chemical. With the measure's passage, House Bill 13-17, now referred to as Public Law 13-7, amends Public Law 11-79 so that the remaining balance of the funds will be available for the pipes' replacement.

CPA gears up for anticipated slowdown in seaport traffic
Cargo traffic at the Saipan International Harbor is anticipated to drop by 20 percent, as a result of the expected slowdown in garment manufacturing-related activities on the island in 2005. This dim projection prompts the Commonwealth Ports Authority to start exploring alternate activities that would help sustain the operations of all three seaports in the Northern Marianas. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said the anticipated drop in seaport activities in 2005 will aggravate the current slowdown brought about by the Sept. 11-related economic upheavals. The ports authority's seaport division reported a 29-percent drop in revenue tonnage in March 2002, the biggest fall since September 2001.

Business

First quarter wiped out $1.3 trillion for Americans

WASHINGTON (AP)—The brute force of the recession earlier this year turned back the clock on Americans' personal wealth to 2004 and wiped out a staggering $1.3 trillion as home values shrank and investments withered.

Net worth, or the value of assets such as homes, checking accounts and investments minus debts like mortgages and credit cards, declined 2.6 percent in the first three months of the year, the Federal Reserve said Thursday.

Those months were some of the worst of the recession so far for job losses, and the stock market sank to its lowest point of the year in March. Since then, some signs suggest the economy is stabilizing.

Still, partly because of the carnage earlier in the recession, Americans are putting plans on hold until the economy improves.

B. Smith, a conductor for a Chicago commuter rail line, is waiting to buy cars for two of his children. He spent $260,000 to build his suburban Chicago home about 10 years ago and watched its value spike to $380,000 in January 2008. Today, it stands at about $310,000. "I'm still ahead, but I'm not as ahead as I was before," he said.

Even if things improve, such a dramatic evaporation of wealth will probably make Americans more thrifty down the road, said Scott Hoyt, senior director of consumer economics at Moody's Economy.com.

"The bulk of consumers alive today have not experienced declines in wealth like this," Hoyt said. "They are already turning thrifty, and it will stay that way beyond the short term. This has been a significant learning experience."

Americans' personal savings rate zoomed to 5.7 percent in April, the highest since 1995. And the amount in savings—$620.2 billion—was the most on record dating to January 1959.

One way to save: Maurice Bolger, a management consultant, said he does many repairs himself on his Indianapolis home rather than pay someone else. "I just take a little bit longer," said the 53-year-old father of four, three of whom live at home.

Even if the economy recovers and starts to thrive again, he said he probably won't break out the credit cards again. "It's really not about stuff," he said. "Stuff is nice, but life is not about how much more stuff can we get."

Oil above $72 as traders eye economic recovery

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices hovered above $72 a barrel Friday in Asia near an 8-month high as investors eyed signs a global recession may be easing.

Benchmark crude for July delivery fell 31 cents to $72.37 a barrel by midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. On Thursday, it rose $1.35 to settle at $72.68, the highest since October.

An improving crude demand outlook helped bolster prices. On Thursday, the International Energy Agency in Paris said in its monthly survey that global oil demand would fall by 2.9 percent this year, better than its May forecast of a 3 percent annual fall.

It was the organization's first upward estimate of demand in 10 months.

"Oil prices are discounting positive economic growth by around the end of the third quarter," said Christoffer Molke-Leth, head of sales trading for Saxo Capital Markets in Singapore. "If that doesn't happen, prices at this level are overbought."

Prices have more than doubled since March as investor optimism grew that the worst of a severe U.S. recession was over.

The Labor Department on Thursday reported that the number of newly laid-off Americans filing for jobless benefits fell last week by 24,000 to 601,000—better than economists had forecast.

Meanwhile, the Commerce Department said retail sales rose 0.5 percent in May, interrupting two months of decreases and marking the largest gain since January.

"I think we're going for a test of $75," Molke-Leth said. "Every time you see a little pull back you have funds ready to step in."

Investors have also bought crude as a hedge against a weakening U.S. dollar and the possibility of inflation down the road. The euro was steady at $1.4102 on Friday.

"Fear of inflation is supporting the whole commodity complex, particularly oil," Molke-Leth said. "The record fiscal and monetary stimulus will have inflationary implications."

In other Nymex trading, gasoline for July delivery fell 0.64 cent to $2.06 a gallon and heating oil dropped 0.63 cent to $1.85. Natural gas for July delivery slid 3.7 cents to $3.90 per 1,000 cubic feet.

In London, Brent prices fell 28 cents to $71.51 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: We weren't chasing car before Philly crash

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A car that jumped a curb and crashed into a crowd, killing a woman and three young children, was fleeing a police officer who had tried unsuccessfully to stop the driver but who got stuck in traffic and couldn't give chase, the police commissioner said Thursday. "Did a pursuit take place? The answer is no," police Commissioner Charles Ramsey said during a news conference at police headquarters, pointing to the mug shot of one of two suspects. "The fault belongs to the individual you see here." Ramsey said the officer would have been justified if he had chased the driver of the car or a second man, who a witness said had earlier jumped out of the car and stolen a motorcycle at gunpoint.

Blogger surrenders on Conn. lawmaker-threat charge

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—A New Jersey blogger who urged readers to "take up arms" against Connecticut lawmakers and who suggested government officials should "obey the Constitution or die" surrendered Thursday on a charge of inciting violence. Harold "Hal" Turner, a former radio talk show host from North Bergen who broadcasts commentary on his Web site, was angry over legislation that would have given lay members of Roman Catholic churches in Connecticut more control over their parish's finances. The bill, brought by state Sen. Andrew McDonald and Rep. Michael Lawlor, was withdrawn in March. Turner was charged by Capitol Police in Connecticut with inciting injury to persons or property, and released after posting bond. He is due in court June 22.

Radioactive wasps bug out nuclear cleanup workers

YAKIMA, Wash. (AP)—If workers cleaning up the nation's most contaminated nuclear site didn't have enough to worry about, now they've got to deal with radioactive wasp nests. Mud dauber wasps built the nests, which have been largely abandoned by their flighty owners, in holes at south-central Washington's Hanford nuclear reservation in 2003. That's when workers finished covering cleaned-up waste sites with fresh topsoil, native plants and straw to help the plants grow - inadvertently creating perfect ground cover for the insects to build their nests. Nearby cleanup work also provided a steady supply of mud, which the wasps used as building material. Today, the nests, which could number in the thousands, are "fairly highly contaminated" with radioactive isotopes, such as cesium and cobalt, but don't pose a significant threat to workers digging them up.

No smoking: Historic vote could bring new limits

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate struck a historic blow against smoking in America Thursday, voting overwhelmingly to give regulators new power to limit nicotine in the cigarettes that kill nearly a half-million people a year, to drastically curtail ads that glorify tobacco and to ban flavored products aimed at spreading the habit to young people.

President Barack Obama, who has spoken of his own struggle to quit smoking, said he was eager to sign the legislation, and the House planned a vote for Friday. Cigarette foes said the measure would not only cut deaths but reduce the $100 billion in annual health care costs linked to tobacco.

Fierce opposition by the industry and tobacco-state lawmakers had prevented passage for years, along with veto threats by the George W. Bush White House. In the end, the nation's biggest tobacco company supported the measure, though rivals suggested that was because it could lock in Philip Morris' share of the market.

Cigarette smoking kills about 400,000 people in the United States every year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. About 45 million U.S. adults are smokers, though the prevalence has fallen since the U.S. surgeon general's warning 45 years ago that tobacco causes lung cancer.

The legislation, one of the most dramatic anti-smoking initiatives since the surgeon general's report, would give the Food and Drug Administration authority to regulate the content, marketing and advertising of cigarettes and other tobacco products.

AP

A customer at the Red Key Taven in Indianapolis smokes a cigarette, Thursday, June 11, 2009.

"This legislation represents the strongest action Congress has ever taken to reduce tobacco use, the leading preventable cause of death in the United States," declared Matthew Myers, president of Campaign for Tobacco-free Kids.

The 79-17 Senate vote sent the measure back to the House, which in April passed a similar but not identical version. House acceptance of the Senate bill would send it directly to Obama, who said Thursday that final passage "will make history by giving the scientists and medical experts at the FDA the power to take sensible steps."

"At any given moment, millions are struggling with their habit or worrying about loved ones who smoke," said Obama.

His signature would then add tobacco to other huge, nationally important areas that have come under greater government supervision since his presidency began. Those include banking, housing and autos. Still to come, if Congress can agree: health care.

Supporters of FDA regulation of tobacco have struggled for more than a decade to overcome powerful resistance—from the industry and elsewhere. In 2000 the Supreme Court ruled 5-4 that the agency did not have the authority under current law to regulate tobacco products, and the Bush administration opposed several previous efforts by Congress to write a new law.

Thursday's legislation gives the FDA power to evaluate the contents of tobacco products and to order changes or bans on those that are a danger to public health. The agency could limit nicotine yields but not ban nicotine or cigarettes.

Regulators could prohibit tobacco companies from using candy or other flavors in cigarettes that tend to attract young smokers, and restrict advertising in publications often read by teenagers. Rules on sales to minors would be toughened, as would warning labels. Tobacco companies would have to get FDA approval for new products, and would be barred from using terms such as "light" or "mild" that imply a smaller health risk.

Costs of the new program would be paid for through a fee imposed on tobacco companies.

"This is a bill that will protect children and will protect America," said Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., a leading supporter. "Every day that we don't act, 3,500 American kids—children—will light up for the first time. That is enough to fill 70 school buses."

For accused museum shooter, a downward spiral

WASHINGTON (AP)—James von Brunn carried a lifetime of hatred and an aging rifle to the entrance of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, authorities say, and was met with a simple act of kindness: a security guard opening the door for him. Critically injured in a hospital bed Thursday, the 88-year-old white supremacist was charged with murdering Steven T. Johns, the black guard.

According to interviews with family, friends and civil rights groups, von Brunn spent decades spewing hate toward Jews and blacks—a hatred that was nearing a crescendo in the weeks before the shooting.

At least one acquaintance said he suspected that von Brunn was preparing for a violent end.

Von Brunn had talked about giving up "precious things"—even the computer from which he spread his angry diatribes against Jews, interracial dating and the government, said fellow white supremacist John de Nugent.

"He said he had gone offline," said de Nugent, who last spoke to von Brunn on the phone a few weeks ago.

De Nugent said von Brunn complained that his Social Security benefits had been reduced, and he suspected that his white supremacist views were the reason.

"He was unhappy with his living situation," de Nugent said.

Von Brunn lived in a condo in Annapolis with his 32-year-old son, Erik von Brunn, and his son's fiancee, according to charging documents. The couple charged him $400 a month and when he moved in two years ago, he brought two rifles with him, the fiancee, Brandy Teel, told FBI agents. No one answered the door Thursday at their condo.

When next-door neighbor Harold Olynnger, 82, invited von Brunn over for a drink about three months ago, it didn't go well.

Von Brunn sipped on a vodka tonic and talked about how he believed the media paid too much attention to the Holocaust, Olynnger said.

On his Web site, von Brunn said he is a descendant of German immigrants who became convinced Jews controlled the government. He boasted of having spent a year in jail for fighting a sheriff's deputy in Maryland in 1968 and, a quarter-century later, of serving prison time for trying to kidnap members of the Federal Reserve board.

Confusion expected as analog TV broadcasts end

NEW YORK (AP)—Starting in the morning and going into the night, TV stations across the U.S. planned to cut their analog signals Friday, ending a six-decade era for the technology and likely stranding more than 1 million unprepared homes without TV service.

The Federal Communications Commission put 4,000 operators on standby for calls from confused viewers, and set up demonstration centers in several cities. Volunteer groups and local government agencies were helping elderly viewers set up digital converter boxes that keep older TVs functioning.

"When you're alone like me, that's my partner," Patricia Bruchalski, 82, said about her TV.

Bruchalski, a pianist and former opera singer who lives in Brooklyn Park, Md., got assistance Thursday from Anne Arundel County's Department of Aging and Disabilities and a community organization called Partners in Care. After her converter box was installed, Bruchalski marveled that digital broadcasts seemed clearer and gave her more channels—about 15 instead of the three she was used to.

"You're going to be up all night watching TV now," volunteer installer Rick Ebling told her.

A survey sponsored by broadcasters showed that Americans are well aware of the analog shutdown, thanks to a yearlong barrage of TV ads. But not everyone was sure exactly what it means, or what needs to be done to tune in to digital TV.

Any sets hooked up to cable or satellite feeds are unaffected. Newer, digital TVs that get broadcasts through antennas—and older sets hooked up to converter boxes—should be fine, but they will need to be set to "re-scan" the airwaves, to find stations that move to new frequencies Friday.

Some people might also need new antennas, because digital signals travel differently than analog ones. While an analog station that came in imperfectly might have had static but remained viewable, digital generally comes in all or nothing. Indeed, one of Bruchalski's newly available stations looked pixelated, and Ebling said she might have to get a different antenna.

The shutdown of analog channels frees up the airwaves for modern applications like wireless broadband and TV services for cell phones.

Texas storms flood, cancel flights, shut off power

DALLAS (AP)—A series of powerful storms packing heavy rains and frequent lightning strikes grounded dozens of flights, left hundreds of thousands without power and caused widespread damage across portions of Texas on Thursday.

No deaths or injuries were reported from the storms that began whipping the Dallas-Fort Worth area Wednesday night with winds up to 70 mph. By the time the storms cleared the city, some areas of Dallas got more than 8 inches of rain.

More than 180,000 homes and businesses were without power Thursday night, said Megan Wright, a spokeswoman for Oncor Electric Delivery.

More than 400 flights were canceled Thursday at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport before they resumed operating later in the day. Ground workers were brought in from outside part of the day because of lightning in the area, said airport spokesman David Magana.

Southwest Airlines, which flies out of Dallas Love Field, canceled 21 flights Thursday because of the weather—15 of those were in Dallas. Another 13 planes were diverted in the height of the morning's storms and dozens of flights were delayed across the country, company spokesman Brad Hawkins said.

"They expected the storms to develop and move through, then they just parked," he said. "That's what threw everything for a loop."

Dallas workers were trying to repair a pump that moves groundwater from a west Dallas neighborhood into the Trinity River after the pump was struck by lightning. Another pump was still working. city spokeswoman Danielle McClelland said.

Asia

AP source: NKorea may be prepping new nuclear test

WASHINGTON (AP)—North Korea may be preparing for its third nuclear test, a show of defiance as the United Nations considers new sanctions on the dictatorship for conducting an underground nuclear explosion in May, according to a U.S. government official.

North Korea conducted an underground explosion on May 25, its first since a 2006 atomic test. The official, who spoke Thursday on condition of anonymity in order to discuss the unreleased information, would not provide details regarding the assessment.

A draft U.N. resolution proposed Wednesday would impose tough sanctions on North Korea's weapons exports and financial dealings and allow inspections of suspect cargo in ports and on the high seas. North Korea has threatened to retaliate if new sanctions are adopted.

North Korea already is a pariah to many countries and has been under tough economic sanctions for years. Last month's reported test defied a Security Council resolution adopted after the North's first underground atomic blast in October 2006.

The White House National Security Council would not comment on the assessment of a possible third nuclear test in the works.

"We have come to expect North Korea to act recklessly and dangerously," NSC spokesman Mike Hammer said in a statement. "But while the world unites to pass a strong new Security Council resolution, it is clear that North Korea's behavior is succeeding only in further isolating itself."

Petraeus: Afghan violence at peak level last week

WASHINGTON (AP)—The violence that has surged for two years in Afghanistan reached a new high last week, and more difficulty lies ahead, the commander of U.S. troops in the Middle East said Thursday.

Gen. David Petraeus said the number of attacks in Afghanistan over the last week hit the highest level since the December 2001 fall of the Taliban.

"Some of this will go up because we are going to go after their sanctuaries and safe havens as we must," Petraeus, in charge of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq as leader of U.S. Central Command, said during a speech at the Washington think-tank Center for a New American Security.

"But there is no question the situation has deteriorated over the course of the past two years in particular and there are difficult times ahead," he said.

There were more than 400 insurgent attacks last week, including ambushes, small arms volleys, assaults on Afghan infrastructure and government offices, and roadside bomb and mine explosions. In comparison, attacks in January 2004 were less than 50 per week.

Extremist attacks in the rural nation tend to increase in the summer months, and in part are spurred by military efforts to crack down on insurgents, Petraeus said.

Petraeus, who led beefed-up U.S. military efforts that helped turnabout violence in Iraq in 2007, noted several challenges in Afghanistan he did not face while in Baghdad—including the inability of U.S. troops to live among the local residents.

He cited the need for "being good partners and good neighbors and having enormous concern, needless to say, about civilian casualties in everything we do."

Pakistani general's home attacked

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Gunmen opened fire Friday at the home of the army commander heading the military offensive against Taliban militants in Pakistan's northwest, sparking a gunbattle just hours after a suicide attack at a police checkpoint, officials said.

The military, meanwhile, sent jet fighters to bomb suspected militant strongholds in the Bajur tribal region—extending its military operations against the Taliban in the northwest. Casualty figures were not immediately known.

The overnight attacks in Peshawar city were the latest of several targeting security forces and blamed on militants retaliating for the military's assault on Taliban militants in the nearby Swat Valley region. More than 60 people have died in the wave of attacks since May 27.

The attack on the Peshawar home of Lt. Gen. Masood Aslam triggered a gunbattle that killed two suspected militants, said Mian Iftikhar Hussain, the provincial information minister.

Hours earlier, a coordinated suicide attack on a police checkpoint in the city killed one officer and wounded a dozen other people. The assailants lobbed a grenade at the checkpoint and when police rushed to respond, a suicide bomber ran forward and blew himself up, said police Superintendent Nisar Marwad.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistan public opinion turning against Taliban

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The footage was chilling—a woman crying out in pain, held face-down on the ground, as a man with a long beard flogged her in front of a crowd. It could be the video that changed Pakistan. That two-minute clip, purportedly shot in the Swat Valley where the Taliban held sway until a recent military offensive, has come to represent the militants and their extreme form of Islam. The footage is increasingly seen here as a turning point—perhaps even more persuasive than all the bombings, beheadings and other violence, most recently Tuesday's suicide attack on a luxury hotel.

Trial of Myanmar's Suu Kyi adjourned until June 26

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—The trial of pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi was adjourned Friday for two weeks so that defense lawyers can call an additional witness to testify in the widely watched case, a Myanmar official said. The District Court trying Suu Kyi informed lawyers of the postponement until June 26 during a brief hearing Friday at Insein Prison, where the trial is taking place, said the government official who is close to the court. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to media. No new date was immediately set for closing arguments, which were originally set for June 1 and delayed repeatedly since then.

Airstrike missed militant commander, Afghans say

KABUL (AP)—U.S. airstrikes in western Afghanistan missed their target of a militant commander and instead killed 12 other militants and 10 civilians, provincial officials said Thursday. The U.S. military originally said the strike killed a warlord named Mullah Mustafa but now say he apparently survived. In a statement issued Thursday, the U.S. said "credible reports surfaced that Mustafa survived the attack" in Ghor province. The U.S. said it was investigating reports that civilians had been killed.

World

WHO: Swine flu pandemic has begun, 1st in 41 years

GENEVA (AP)—Swine flu is now formally a pandemic, a declaration by U.N. health officials that will speed vaccine production and spur government spending to combat the first global flu epidemic in 41 years. Thursday's announcement by the World Health Organization doesn't mean the virus is any more lethal—only that its spread is considered unstoppable.

AP

An Egyptian woman wears a surgical mask as another covers her nose in Cairo's underground, Egypt, Thursday, June 11, 2009 after a student dorm at the American University in Cairo was placed under quarantine through June 15 after seven Americans, six students and one faculty member, were diagnosed with swine flu.

Since it was first detected in late April in Mexico and the United States, swine flu has reached 74 countries, infecting nearly 29,000 people. Most who catch the bug have only mild symptoms and don't need medical treatment.

WHO chief Dr. Margaret Chan made the long-awaited declaration after the U.N. agency held an emergency meeting with flu experts and said she was moving to phase 6—the agency's highest alert level—which means a pandemic is under way.

"The world is moving into the early days of its first influenza pandemic in the 21st century," Chan said in Geneva.

Dr. Thomas Frieden, the new head of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said in Atlanta that he does not expect widespread public anxiety in the United States as a result of the declaration, noting it came nearly two months after the virus was identified.

3 more bodies found from lost Air France jetliner

RECIFE, Brazil (AP)—A Brazilian ship recovered three more bodies from the Atlantic as searchers said weather and currents were making their job increasingly difficult and warned it is unlikely that all the dead from Air France Flight 447 will be found.

Forty-four bodies have now been retrieved from the Airbus 330 that crashed into the sea May 31 en route from Brazil to Paris. Authorities hope identifying the bodies will help them determine whether the plane broke up in midair by allowing them to match seating assignment with location of body recovery.

With rainstorms hitting the search area, Brazilian Air Force Gen. Ramon Cardoso said the aerial search was being hindered by reduced visibility.

Currents that had been carrying bodies and debris toward the West African nation of Senegal were reversing and could bring them closer to Brazilian and French searchers, but the recovery effort covers a vast area, Cardoso said.

4 former Guantanamo detainees in a new world

HAMILTON, Bermuda (AP)—Four Guantanamo detainees from arid, predominantly Muslim western China were transferred to this very proper British colony Thursday, marking an unexpected new chapter in their odyssey.

Freed after being locked up seven years, the four men were given ties during their flight to the island and their lawyers gave quick lessons in how to knot them. They kept a low profile after landing and declined to talk with journalists.

They arrived just as islanders were starting to celebrate Bermuda's 400th year of settlement. But Washington's surprise announcement of the transfer set off grumbling by some islanders, and the colonial rulers in London bristled over not being told ahead of time.

Putting a cloud over the deal, Britain's government said it was studying whether to allow Bermuda Premier Ewart Brown to go ahead with his plan to take in the men as refugees. Brown said the men eventually would be permitted to pursue citizenship and would have the right to work, travel and "potentially settle elsewhere."

WORLD BRIEFS

Gadhafi faces tough questions from Italy students

ROME (AP)—Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi faced angry protests and tough questions on human rights Thursday as he gave a speech at a Rome university during his first visit to Italy. Earlier Thursday, he courted controversy by calling for dialogue with terrorists and by likening the 1986 U.S. strikes on Libya to Osama bin Laden's terror attacks. Hundreds of students protested Gadhafi's speech at La Sapienza University, saying the centuries-old atheneum and Italy had gone too far in giving the strongman a red-carpet welcome. Some hurled objects, firecrackers and red paint at riot police, and baton-wielding officers charged the demonstrators. No injuries were reported.

Iraqi government warns more violence likely

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq's government warned Thursday that more violence is likely as Iraqi security forces gear up for the withdrawal of U.S. forces from urban areas by the end of this month. Several high-profile bombings have eroded public faith in Iraqi security forces as the Americans face a June 30 deadline to pull back to bases outside the cities. In the latest attack, a motorcycle bomb exploded outside a popular park near the Shiite holy city of Karbala, south of Baghdad, killing two civilians and wounding 14, said Mohammed al-Moussawi, head of the Karbala provincial council. Al-Moussawi initially said it was a suicide bombing but later said the explosives were detonated by remote control. The blast came a day after a car bomb exploded near the mainly Shiite city of Nasiriyah, killing 35 people.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, June 13, 2009

Whole-day entertainment at '09 Pistang Pinoy

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The United Filipino Organization has prepared a whole day of entertainment tomorrow for the annual 'Pistang Pinoy' (Filipino Festival) at the Civic Center in Susupe, culminating the commemoration of the 111th Philippine Independence Day.

Activities will start at 11:30am with top CNMI government officials invited to take part, including representatives of the Governor and Mayor's offices.

Filipinos on Saipan, mostly contract workers, will showcase their talents in dancing, singing and other entertainment numbers combining traditional and modern cultures.

This year's event coordinator, Minda Castro, said many Filipino bands will be there to liven up the party.

There will also be games and fun activities like the children's poster making contest, with lots of prizes and giveaways for winners.

Some of the Filipino talents on Saipan who will be performing Sunday are the Genesis Choir, Bayani Association, Glen Mesina, Tanya, Miki & Akeiko Dela Cruz, Uncle Ben's Saipan Dream Academy Stars, Nikki Canape, Hyatt's Star Society, PIC's Icon Band, KIKBAK Bank with Joane Cabrera, Paul Dujua and Michelle Villarasa with Soulful Acoustic Band, Rose Lazaro, Spectrum Dancers, Project Impact Dancers, Airhead Dancers, Revolutionary Group, Erica Fe Tubero, Walden & Violy, Cornerstone Performing Arts, Rated R Band, High Pitch Band, Giovanni Pardinan, Dose of Valium Band and Joan Tomokane Liwanag.

The event's major sponsors are IT&E, Budweiser, Western Union and Taro Sue.

Philippine Consul General Wilfredo DL. Maximo will deliver the keynote address.

This year's theme is "Kagitingan, Kagalingan at Kasipagan Tungo sa Tunay na Kalayaan" (valor, talent and hard-work toward genuine independence).

The Pistang Pinoy committee members are UFO president Olive Yana, overall chairwoman; Castro, event coordinator; Melvin Malvar and Annamae Adaza, souvenir program committee; Paul Madriaga and Malvar, solicitation coordinators; Flor Miranda, Tony Soriano and Bok Enano, vendors coordinators; Edgardo Reyes and Leo Canedo, physical arrangement committee; Ladyvir Canape, Evelyn Deazeta and Nelida Atalig, stage decorations coordinators; Jack Galvez, video and photography; Lolit Velasco, Mylene Macapagal and Cora Balita, food committee; and Bong Malasarte, power consultant.

Early in the morning at 7am, the Philippine Consulate General, in coordination with the Philippine Overseas Labor Office and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, will offer free medical screening at the Marianas Business Center.

Hardt Eye Clinic and medical volunteers from the Commonwealth Health Center will conduct free health screening of blood pressure, sugar level, and vision.

The actual commemoration of Philippine Independence Day was on June 12.

Children's poster contest at Pistang Pinoy

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Following the success of last year's event, organizers of the 2009 Pistang Pinoy will be holding anew a poster competition among children this Sunday at the Civic Center in Susupe.

Minda Castro of the United Filipino Organization, who is coordinating this year's event, said there will be two categories for the contest.

The first category will be for 7-9 years old competitors and the second category will be 10-12 years old.

The contest will be centered on Filipino culture with the theme of this year's commemoration of 111th Independence Day, "Kagitingan, Kagalingan at Kasipagan Tungo sa Tunay na Kalayaan" (Valor, Talent and Hard Work Toward Genuine Independence).

"We really had a successful poster making contest [last year] and we had a lot of our Filipino children excited to join again this time," said Castro.

The actual Philippine Independence Day was celebrated yesterday June 12.

111TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

A giant Philippine flag is raised at Manila's Rizal Park Friday June 12, 2009 to mark the 111th anniversary celebration of Philippine Independence from Spain. The Philippines has been ruled by Spain for more than 300 years until the proclamation of its independence by Filipino revolutionaries in June 12, 1898. In background is the monument of the country's national hero Dr. Jose P. Rizal.

AP

LABOR FRONT

Permission to seek temporary work

By FERDIE PONCE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Q: If an alien worker who is granted permission to seek temporary work finds an employer while his or her Labor complaint is pending, how long is he or she allowed to work?

A: If a foreign national worker who has received permission to seek temporary work finds an employer, Labor should issue a temporary work authorization for up to six months while the case is pending. According to the new Alien Labor Rules and Regulations, temporary work authorization may be renewed for an equal term. Such authorization should expire automatically 10 days after the date of a hearing officer's final order in the case, or in the event of a timely appeal 10 days after the date of the Labor Secretary's order, or in the event of a timely appeal to a court 10 days after the date of the court's final order.

■ ■ ■

Q: What should an employer do first before allowing the alien worker with temporary work authorization to begin working?

A: The regulations state that an employer who hires a foreign national worker under a temporary work authorization should file with Labor prior to the start of any work by the worker a statement of employment terms on the standard form provided by Labor. If employment under the temporary work authorization ends prior to the determination of the pending case, the worker shall report to Labor Enforcement within 10 days for a renewal of the permission to seek temporary work.

■ ■ ■

Q: Who has the liability for the medical expenses of an alien worker who is on a temporary work authorization?

A: The financial obligation with respect to medical expenses and repatriation remain with the last employer of record at the time the Labor complaint was filed and are not shifted to the employer who hires the worker under a temporary work authorization. The regulations state that the financial obligations with respect to payment of wages and any employer-supplied housing or other benefits (other than medical expenses), however, are the responsibility of the employer who hires the worker under a temporary work authorization.

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Free video conferencing for OFWs, kin

By KATHERINE EVANGELISTA
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—Imagine being able to have a video teleconference with your relative abroad, with clear reception, in real time, and best of all, for free.

This is made possible by Abot Tanaw, a free social networking system which seeks to provide free video teleconferencing for the eight million overseas Filipino workers abroad and their dependents in the Philippines.

The concept of Abot Tanaw started from a conversation between Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation chief Ephraim Genuino and businessman and Abot Tanaw chief executive Kim Go, who both wanted to make the conversations between OFWs and their relatives more personal.

"Hearing the voice is good but nothing beats looking at a face while talking," said Geniuno, senior adviser of the Abot Tanaw company.

Though similar services like chatting and video conferencing using a webcam are available on the Internet, Genuino said that these "are too complicated for many of our OFWs and it is too public."

OFWs and their dependents need only to register and become an Abot Tanaw member for them to avail of the free service, Genuino said.

Abot Tanaw gives the first five minutes of the conversation for free and charges for the succeeding minutes, Genuino said.

However, Suson said the company is still determining the exact rates but guaranteed that it will be affordable for the OFWs and their dependents.

The Abot Tanaw was launched Wednesday at the SMX Convention Center in Pasay City with a simultaneous launching in Hong Kong, where the first Abot Tanaw hub abroad was set up.

During the launch, some OFW workers in Hong Kong were allowed to test the telephones and they were very pleased with the service.

"Nakakatuwa po kasi syempre accessible siya, saka di lang siya basta tawag, makikita mo kausap mo (It's fun that we not only hear them but see them)," said Mary Rose Sampilo, who was able to talk to her mother Connie in Hong Kong.

"Mas makakapagusap kayo ng malinaw. Masasabi na lahat, not just na tawag lang. Makikita na niya yung improvement sa iyo (The conversation is clearer. My mother was able to see the improvement in me)," Sampilo added.

Nueva Ecija resident H1N1 positive; 19 more tested

By TONETTE OREJAS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SAN FERNANDO—The Department of Health has taken throat swabs from 19 more residents of Barangay (village) Hilera in Jaen, Nueva Ecija for suspected A(H1N1) infection, an official said.

This brings to 34 the number of people under observation in that village where one has tested positive, said Doctor Rio Magpantay, DOH director in Central Luzon.

Magpantay said the second batch consisted of students and adults.

The results of the rest from the first batch of 15 would be announced later Friday in Manila by Health Secretary Francisco Duque III, said Magpantay.

The first positive case so far from that first batch was an 11-year-old boy.

Magpantay said the boy spent his vacation in Bulacan. His contacts in recent weeks are being traced.

Latest contact tracing showed that none of those from the first and second batches had traveled to any H1N1 infected country, Magpantay said.

In light of this, health authorities are trying to establish if the exposure originated from any member of a team that conducted a medical mission at the Hilera Elementary School last May 31.

DOH personnel are trying to locate the group known only as Palanghay, he said.

Before the regional DOH actively intervened last week, Jaen Mayor Santi Austria cancelled classes at the Hilera Elementary School for two weeks as 22 students were taken ill with fever.

The provincial health officer, Dr. Benjamin Lopez, said the ailment was "ordinary flu."

Last week, 53 students in the same school and four other residents of the village showed what Magpantay called influenza-like symptoms.

While not yet declaring a community-level outbreak, the DOH set up a command post in Barangay Hilera.

"Since the residents are not showing serious symptoms, we're operating from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.," Magpantay said.

About 20 health personnel from the DOH regional office, provincial health office, local health office and the Paulino J. Garcia Hospital are helping in "early detection and aggressive medication" among villagers.

Nueva Ecija Governor Aurelio Umali said the provincial and local governments have prepared the support network for DOH's pro-active approach in containing the spread of the virus ahead of the Jaen situation.

"The program is proving to be successful because it is the DOH that is on the lead. We [in the LGUs] heeded DOH's advice not to be visible so as not to confuse the people. I'm very confident that the DOH is doing quite a job here," Umali said.

He said the DOH has allowed Hilera villagers to freely move around.

"But they are also advised that if they don't have important things to do outside, they are encouraged to stay home and to also report at once the symptoms they observe in their bodies and of their family members," Umali said.

Dr. Mario Ramirez, director of the Department of Education in Central Luzon, said the reopening of classes in Hilera Elementary School would depend on the advice of the DOH.

"It can go less or beyond 10 days," Ramirez said. "What is important is public health."

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

Couple in 'threesome' sex act charged

MANILA, Philippines—Investigators of the Manila Police District (MPD) the other day filed charges with the City Prosecutors Office against a couple who allegedly forced their teenage housemaid to engage in a "threesome" with them and then videotaped the sex acts. Chief Inspector Anita Araullo, MPD Women and Children's Protection Desk head, said they charged Quezon Cunanan and his wife, Melba, with violating the anti-violence against women and children act of 2004 and the anti-trafficking in persons act of 2003. The couple's 18-year-old maid filed a complaint with the police, accusing the couple of getting her drunk and then forcing her to have sex with them on June 5. She added that the incident was not the first time that the Cunanans had forced her to engage in a threesome with them. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Jail guard killed in attack in Kidapawan

KIDAPAWAN CITY—A jail guard was killed and three others were wounded when some 50 armed men attacked the provincial jail here early Thursday. Police identified the fatality as Jake Rosales and the wounded as Tahar Macasundong and Redentor Marasigan, acting warden. Macasundong and Marasigan suffered shrapnel wounds from a rocket-propelled grenade. Police Officer 2 Fermin Alarcon, a member of the Provincial Police Mobile Group, was also hurt in the 30-minute gunfight that ensued. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Pacman flying to New York, after all

MANILA—Manny Pacquiao is going to New York to receive his Fighter of the Year award, after all. The world's pound-for-pound king, who initially thought of skipping the 84th Boxing Writers Association of America awards night on Friday (Tuesday in Manila) to spend time with his family, finally decided Wednesday night in Cebu City to attend the affair where his trainer, Freddie Roach, will also be honored. Pacquiao, accompanied by wife Jinkee, lawyer Jeng Gacal and Mike Koncz will leave for New York via Tokyo on a Northwest Airlines flight at 8 a.m. Friday. "It was a concerted effort," said international promoter Wakee Salud, one of Pacquiao's confidants. "Bob Arum (Manny's promoter) called to persuade him and Jinkee urged him to go. His other friends and advisers like Chavit (Singson) and Hermie (Esguerra) also told him to go," Salud said. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

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Unspent OFW cash choked Q1 growth

But spending seen to pick up in months ahead

By MICHELLE REMO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Fearful of widespread job cuts reported abroad, families of Filipinos working overseas had reined in spending in the first quarter, choosing to save the remittances they had received.

This was the reason why the Philippine economy grew by a measly 0.4 percent in the first quarter—the slowest in 10 years, said the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

But economic managers still believe that consumers will regain their appetite for spending in the three remaining quarters of the year.

This, they said, would help boost growth of the economy during the period.

According to Dennis Arroyo, director for policy and planning at the National Economic and Development Authority, the worst of the global financial crisis might have already passed, and this could spur Filipino households to spend more rather than hold onto their money.

He cited the case in Taiwan, where OFWs who had been laid off because of the global turmoil were being called back to work.

So far, 1,500 of the estimated 4,400 OFWs who have lost their jobs in Taiwan have been recalled to work, Arroyo said.

OFWs in Taiwan accounted for 65 percent of Filipinos who had lost their jobs abroad, he said.

"Uncertain global economic conditions may have cramped consumer sentiment," BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said. "While OFW remittances have continued to increase, it appears that a large portion of [workers' earnings] went to savings, rather than consumption."

In the first quarter, personal consumption grew by only 0.8 percent, down from 5.1 percent in the same period last year.

"Consumption was hit hard in the first quarter because OFWs, who saw for themselves how the global crisis affected foreign countries, might have warned their families to save as they feared for their jobs," Arroyo said. "But we also believe that the negative behavior of consumers in the first quarter will dissipate in the succeeding quarters as the economic climate somewhat improves."

Comelec sets information drive on automation

By ANNA VALMERO
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—The Commission on Elections kicked off its voters' education campaign yesterday by presenting to the public how an automated poll system works, an official said.

"This is the Comelec's attempt to give the public a first look on automated elections and to explain to them the process from start to finish, what they ought to know about it and the advantages of poll automation over the traditional system of manual voting. We chose to launch this on Independence Day to signify our freedom from dagdag bawas [vote padding and shaving] and other poll cheating activities associated with the traditional system of voting," Comelec spokesman James Jimenez said.

Jimenez added the Comelec would show a video presentation on the monthlong bidding process for the P7.2 billion automation project, which the poll body awarded to Smartmatic and Total Information Management (TIM).

"We chose to launch out public information campaign on voter's education on Plaza Miranda because we can defend that this system of voting from critics who have been saturating the media with warnings to strike fear on automated polls and undermine confidence in Comelec's work," said Jimenez.

Jimenez cited how former president Ramon Magsaysay would challenge every project with: "Can we defend this in Plaza Miranda?"

Jimenez said that in the same manner, Comelec was ready to hold a dialogue with the public about poll automation.

Friday's information campaign will start at 4p.m. Before this, Comelec will hold a short motorcade at 1p.m. that will start in Quiapo and will go around the university belt.

UP AND ABOUT AP

Flamboyant former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos, right, shows her passport and travel documents to a clerk of court where she made a personal appearance at an anti-graft court, which is required of her every time she travels abroad Thursday June 11, 2009 at Manila's Quezon city. Marcos is facing dozens of lawsuits, mostly on corruption cases, in the course of her husband's 20-year-rule. Second from right is her legal counsel Robert Sison.

Kuwaiti emir pardons Filipino maid in jail

By CYNTHIA BALANA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Vice President Noli De Castro on Wednesday night announced that Filipino domestic helper May Vecina, whose death sentence was commuted to life by the emir of Kuwait in 2008, has been pardoned and would be released soon.

De Castro, presidential adviser on overseas Filipino workers, said from New York that the good news was confirmed to him by Foreign Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Esteban Conejos Jr.

He said the Philippine embassy in Kuwait was making the necessary preparations for the homecoming of Mecina to the Philippines.

"Ito ay napakagandang balita para sa ating bayan lalu na sa pamilya at mahal sa buhay ni May. Muli, dininig ang ating dalangin ng ating Panginoon (This is great news for our country, especially for May's family and loved ones. Once again, the Lord heard our prayers)," De Castro said.

Kuwaiti courts found Vecina guilty of killing her employer's 7-year-old son Salem Sulaiman Al-Otaib on January 6, 2007. She was also found guilty of attempting to kill the victim's 13-year-old brother Abdulla by slitting the boy's throat, and his 17-year-old sister Hajer by stabbing her.

At her trial, Vecina claimed that she suffered physical and mental abuse from her employer, which led her to lose her mind.

But the Kuwaiti Supreme Court upheld Vecina's death penalty last May, prompting President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to send De Castro and other officials to Kuwait to plead again with the Kuwaiti ruler.

On July 8, 2008, Kuwaiti Emir Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah signed a decree commuting May Vecina's death sentence to life imprisonment.

TAKE CHARGE

Ways to save on your honeymoon

Editor's Note: This is part of Take Charge of Your Money, a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.

Question: My fiancée and I are getting married within the year. We are very excited and have decided to plan everything ourselves, from choosing our motif to picking out the church and reception venue as well as the suppliers. This way, we can keep a tight watch on our budget. But we really want to have a great honeymoon—is it okay to splurge given the times?—Sharon

Answer: Many couples these days want to have a hands-on approach to their wedding and honeymoon, planning and organizing everything themselves. This will not only result in savings for the couple; the whole experience of organizing everything will be fun too, though a bit stressful—a happy kind of stress nonetheless.

There are many ways you can save on honeymoon expenses. Here are some of them:

Choose a cheaper destination.

It sounds so simple, but true. Instead of honeymooning in Paris, go for Prague, or opt for Asia instead of the Americas. Better yet, go local and honeymoon in Baguio, Palawan, Boracay, or laid-back places like Pagudpud in Ilocos Norte or Batanes. The lower the cost of living in your honeymoon destination, the more savings you will realize. Everything will come out cheaper by choosing a lower cost destination: transportation, hotel, food, shopping, water sports, and other activities.

Book during off-peak season.

By choosing dates during off-peak season, you will save as much as 30 to 40 percent off the regular rates of airfare and hotel accommodations. Off peak season in the Philippines starts in June and ends in September or October. Abroad, off peak season starts around September when school begins, though this may vary depending on your destination.

Settle for no frills.

You can save much on airfare by choosing no-frills tickets. These tickets do not offer meals (bring your own or buy on board instead) and may give you seats at the back of the plane. You will, however, arrive at the same destination as passengers paying the full rate, so there's really not much difference if the travel time is short.

Book early and make your schedule definite.

This will allow you to get non-rebookable, nonrefundable airplane tickets which cost less. You will also get discounts from airlines and possibly from hotels too, by booking early. Also, if you get red-eye flights (those that are scheduled to leave early long before dawn), you'll get cheaper rates too. Choose a hotel that offers free breakfasts.

Check your points in your frequent flyer account or credit card rewards program. You may be eligible to get free flights. Credit cards like Citibank offer cardholders a rewards program wherein every P30 charge earns 1 point. These points may be exchanged for free trips, upgrades or companion tickets in several frequent flyer programs.

Research on your chosen honeymoon place for the best deals.

Again, your credit card may offer special packages—Citi PremierMiles Card currently offers deeply discounted trips to Europe. Browse the Internet and look for places to dine and go to. You don't need to eat at your hotel all the time. Explore the area where you're in and go where the locals go—these places are bound to offer good food at non –touristy prices.

Download or buy a map of your honeymoon place and plan how to get to the places you want to go to even before you leave for your trip. Study how you can go around without hailing a taxi all the time. By using local transportation such as the subway or trains, you will be able to save money. Check car rental rates, too. If you can maximize the use of the car during your stay, it may be worth renting a car even for just one day.

Search for local tours.

Walking tours are popular here in Manila as well as in Singapore and other places. By joining such tours, you will not only have a firsthand view of the culture of a place; you'll be entertained with topnotch guides too. The tours usually don't cost much since you'll be part of a group.

Say that you're on honeymoon.

Hotels and restaurants love honeymooners and would go out of their way to please them. You may get free desserts or a welcome fruit basket or drinks on the house—little perks like these are always nice to have. Plus the concierge may offer suggestions on places you can go to nearby, and help you get the best rates possible.

Stock up on essentials before leaving for the trip: memory cards, batteries for your digital camera and video camera, among others. These may cost more in tourist spots, so it pays to be prepared. We hope you find our tips helpful. Congratulations on your upcoming nuptials!

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Maharlika – PinoyStyle

'People think I'm from Pakistan'

By POCHOLO CONCEPCION
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Her father is Filipino.

"I'm Filipino-Russian-Hawaiian, but people think I'm from Pakistan," Pussycat Dolls' lead vocalist Nicole Scherzinger quipped, laughing as she spoke to the Philippine Daily Inquirer after a jampacked press conference Tuesday.

The Dolls are in Manila for a one-night concert Thursday on the Mall of Asia grounds in Pasay City.

Nicole was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, to a Filipino father, Alfonso Valiente, and a Russian-Hawaiian mother. Her parents separated when she was still a baby. When she was 6, she relocated with her mother to Louisville, Kentucky.

Although she adopted the surname Scherzinger from her German-American stepfather, she said she felt a natural affinity to the Philippines, Lea Salonga being one of her musical idols.

National Anthem

In an interview Tuesday night with ABS-CBN news show "TV Patrol," Nicole even offered to sing the National Anthem in the next fight of Filipino boxing idol Manny Pacquiao.

This is not the Pussycat Dolls' first visit to the Philippines. Nicole said her group performed at Araneta Coliseum two years ago and ran out of songs.

"The people asked for an encore so we did [another number]. But then they asked for more. We didn't know whether to sing the same song all over again," related the 30-year-old dusky beauty during the presscon at the 7 Pecados of the Sofitel Philippine Plaza Hotel.

Aside from Nicole, the group's other members are Ashley Roberts, Kimberly Wyatt, Melody Thornton and Jessica Sutta. They were all present at the presscon except for Jessica, who's reportedly suffering from a back injury and won't make it to the gig.

Doll domination

Although criticized for their "overtly sexual image and explicit dance routines," the Dolls—originally a burlesque act that first performed in 1995 at The Viper Room, a club in Los Angeles once owned by actor Johnny Depp—gained international success after recording its debut album, "PCD," released in 2005.

The CD spent almost a year on the Billboard charts and sold over 7 million copies worldwide.

A follow-up record, "Doll Domination," came out last year but didn't fare as well. However, it reentered the charts this year, giving the Dolls the momentum to kick off their "World Domination Tour," ongoing for the past seven months.

Jai Ho

Renewed interest in the Dolls' latest album gave their handlers the idea of reissuing it in two repackaged versions recently. They contained several new tracks, including "Jai Ho (You Are My Destiny)"—a modified version of an Oscar-winning song that was used at the end credits of the celebrated film "Slumdog Millionaire."

A more disparaging remark hurled against the Dolls is that the group is not really a proper singing group, since it's only Nicole who provides most of the lead and background vocals.

The truth is the Dolls would not have been this successful as a recording act if not for Nicole, who joined the group in 2003. She came in with impressive credentials, having been a backup singer for a rock band, Days of the New, and a member of an all-girl pop group, Eden's Crush, that recorded a single which cracked the Billboard Top 10 in 2001.

He's as Pinoy as 'adobo'

By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The way Japanese-Brazilian model Akihiro Sato put it, he's as Pinoy as adobo.

"I look more Filipino than Japanese or Brazilian," he said of his affinity to the Philippines, adding that he felt instantly at home here.

"I was supposed to live in Thailand, but after spending my vacation here, I decided to stay," he recalled.

Although he doesn't speak Japanese (he's fluent in Portuguese and speaks a little Spanish), he's taking Filipino lessons with a teacher from UP Diliman.

Japanese-Brazilian model Akihiro Sato.

"My tutor comes to my home. I've been studying for two months—two hours, every day. Minsan (sometimes), I have work and I can't… But I try to study at least four hours a week."

He's trying his best to learn the language and attempted to answer in Tagalog in this interview held at his launch as the new image model of Blue Water Day Spa with singer-actress Karylle.

Asked how much he's enjoying his stay, he quipped: "Sobra. Maraming kaibigan dito. Magaganda mga babae dito. (Yes. A lot. I have lots of friends here. Filipino women are beautiful.)"

So does he have a girlfriend now?

"Wala. Kailangan kong magtrabaho. (None. I need to work.)"

And his favorite Filipino food?

"Tapa. Adobo."

He admitted that he's struggling with the language.

Still, it didn't prevent him from doing an indie movie, Seymour Barros Sanchez's "Handumanan (Remembrance)," co-starring Chin Chin Gutierrez and Jason Abalos.

"From the start, I apologized to my director, because of the language problem, but Seymour was patient with me," Sato said. "He gave me a good opportunity. I've always wanted to act in a movie."

For his film debut, he plays a Filipino-Brazilian-American model who's searching for his mother and his roots in Dumaguete. Along the way, he meets and falls for a Filipina romance novelist (Gutierrez).

"Chin Chin is amazing. It's almost as if I fell in love with her. She's a good actress. Very professional. She gave me lots of tips about acting and camera angles," he related.

Gutierrez returned the compliment: "He is truly gifted and giving… He was able to work with any situation, any scene, any challenge on the set and still effortlessly create 'magic' even at 4 a.m. Even after having worked from dawn the day before, he'd still remember to find a present to bring home to his parents!"

He admitted that the role isn't much of a stretch for him because he's playing an international model, but it still proved emotionally draining.

Biggest challenge, he said, was "crying."

Speaking of drama, he offered his sympathy to the female Brazilian models who were caught in the Hayden Kho sex video scandal.

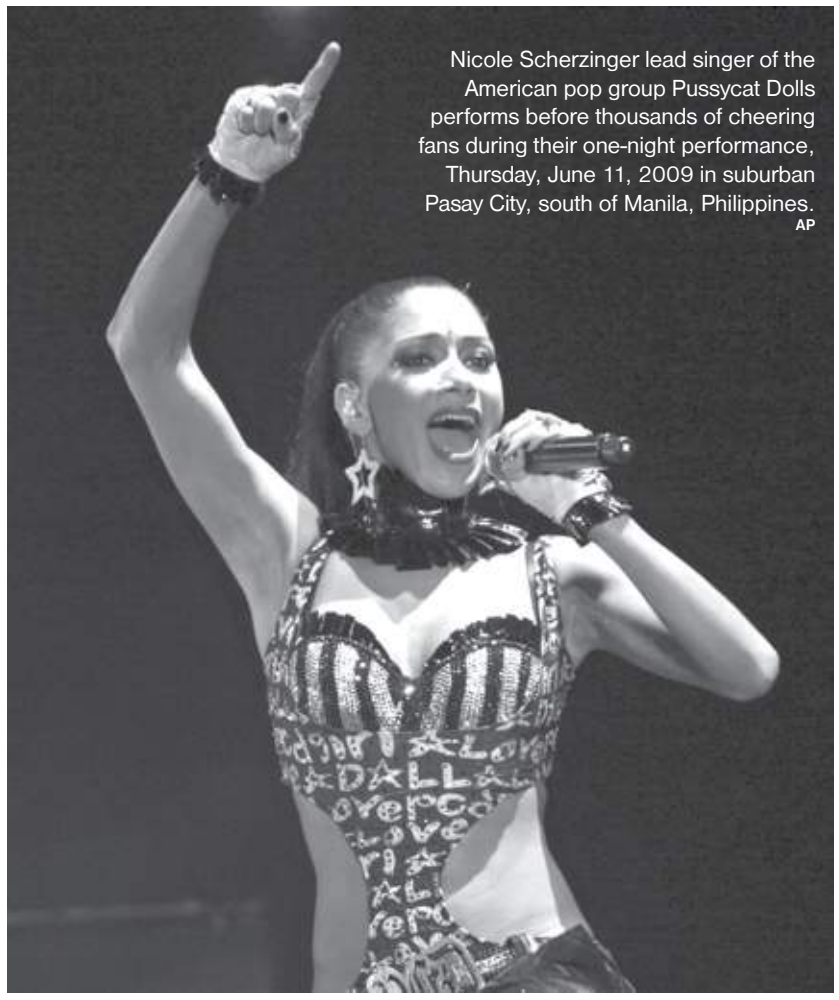
"I don't personally know anyone who was part of that, but I'm so sorry for them," he said. "It's really bad. Not just for the models, but for everyone. It's not good for the country, either."

Suffice it to say, he's certain that he has no sex videos out there.

"No way! Hopefully, the scandal would teach people to take care of themselves and protect themselves from exploitation. Ninety percent of our lives are public. We only have very little left for our private selves."

Case in point: There are at least three fan sites on the Net dedicated to Sato, which chronicle every facet of his life—including his tattoos (he has five: on his nape, left torso, right pelvis, right ankle, left foot).

So much for privacy.


Nicole Scherzinger lead singer of the American pop group Pussycat Dolls performs before thousands of cheering fans during their one-night performance, Thursday, June 11, 2009 in suburban Pasay City, south of Manila, Philippines. AP

Candy Pangilinan is forgiven

By DESIREE CALUZA
INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines—Candy Pangilinan is forgiven, but told to undergo a traditional cleansing ritual.

The city council withdrew its resolution declaring the actress a persona non grata (unwelcome) on Monday, after she appeared in a council session to apologize for her remarks about Igorots, the natives of the Cordillera.

The resolution was filed right after Pangilinan's stand-up gig in SM City Baguio on May 9, during which she jested, "Akala n'yo Igorot ako? Tao po ako (You think I'm Igorot? I'm human)."

The councilors agreed Pangilinan's apology before the council was sincere, and decided to forgive her.

"I am overwhelmed and thankful," the comedian said in a press conference following the meeting. "I have to learn more about history and the Igorots."

Pangilinan had been severely criticized by bloggers from the Cordillera, even those based abroad.

In tears

In her own blog and on national television, the comedian repeatedly apologized after the incident, but the city council sought to ban her from the city "to teach her a lesson."

Pangilinan was in tears on Monday as she read a letter of apology, which she also addressed to the governors and representatives from the region.

"What happened in Baguio is the most embarrassing, disappointing and painful moment in all my years in the [entertainment] industry," Pangilinan said.

People in the packed session hall jeered. But they applauded after the councilors agreed to forgive Pangilinan. Councilor Fred Bagbagen, principal author of the resolution, agreed to a proposal by his colleagues for Pangilinan to undergo a cleansing ritual called "dawes" to close the issue.

Dawes is a traditional practice, particularly of the Kankana-ey tribe, to ward off bad spirits after a crisis by slaughtering pigs or dogs.

George Dumawing, former chair of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Baguio-Benguet Chapter, said a group of Igorot lawyers likewise agreed to withdraw the civil case they were planning to file against Pangilinan

"I hope you will learn from us and share with the entertainment industry that it should stop portraying Igorots in a negative manner," Dumawing said.

Charice sets 1st major gig on June 27

By POCHOLO CONCEPCION
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Charice Pempengco is back in town for the Independence Day celebrations at the Quirino Grandstand and to prepare for her first major concert on June 27 at Mall of Asia's SMX Convention Center.

The 17-year-old Filipino singing sensation arrived Sunday from Los Angeles, where she is recording her debut album to be released in the United States. Veteran record man and composer David Foster is her producer.

While taping for an episode on ABS-CBN's "Pinoy Bingo Night" game show on Wednesday afternoon, Charice chatted on the phone with the Inquirer.

How's the recording coming along?

After "Note to God," we're still looking for the right songs. May mga tinanggal si Sir David sa [line-up].

"Note to God" did very well on the singles charts. Last month, No. 2 po sa Amazon, Top 3 sa iTunes, Top 40 sa Billboard.

Now that you're earning good money, what else have you bought aside from the seven-door apartment in Laguna?

Nakabili na rin po ako ng sasakyan, Expedition.

Why did you pick Regine Velasquez as guest in your concert?

Idol ko po siya talaga. Nung concert ng "Divas 4 Divas" sa Long Beach (California) pinilit ko ang nanay ko na manood kami.

Maharlika – Opinyon

EDITORIAL

Pinoy to the world

A song from the People's Power that sent the late Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos to Aloha land and enshrined the world's most popular widow Cory Aquino to the nation's affection and enthroned her to the country's presidential palace, was titled *Handog Ng Pilipino Sa Mundo,* Filipinos' gift to the world.

The song's chorus spoke of the gift of peaceful change, the promise of discerning truth without deceit, gaining freedom without violence, and attaining justice without coercion, a possibility attainable were a people to act as one.

Not unlike the rest of the world, acting as one has always been humanity's avid intent and great promise. The *Pinoy* who is a world-wise street-smart Filipino, may be inspired and inspiring at times, but also given to vanity and conceit, with a streak of rugged individualism.

Now, that last phrase must come as a surprise. After all, Filipinos as children of Indo-Malay-Sino-Austranesian heritage are family oriented and maintain broad extended kinship relationships. Communities are called *barangays,* boats, which imply that people sail together or sink together. But often, one Filipino group deteriorates into a few dozens a decade later, even for people from the same town, as a consequence of misusing a democratic tool like election of officers as a divisive means rather than as a leadership definition tool.

Now comes the Pinoy in diaspora, to borrow a Semitic term that has come handy lately among Filipinos scattered around the world. But unlike the Jewish people who took the story line as a badge of distinction, many use it for self-flagellation. Right now, overseas Pinoy workers' only unity is the fact that recession in the Philippines might be postponed another year due to overseas remittances. Pinoys hold a country intact as a glorious service force to the world, and it is high time they start claiming the service role with pride rather than with apology.

On this Independence Day celebration, we remind the Pinoys in the CNMI to remember the political hope they unleashed a couple of decades back. Let the wimps be crybabies. But let the real *Pinoys,* particularly the uniting *Pinoys*, among themselves and among fellow humans, stand proud!

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What's freedom for?

Another Independence Day, another missed opportunity. The orgy of naked self-interest we witnessed at the Batasan last week reminds us that our leaders have not only failed us yet again; they have also fallen far short of the standards our national heroes set. Today, and again next Friday on Jose Rizal's 148th birth anniversary, we are duty-bound to ask: Did our heroes die, did we wage a revolution, did we endure the darkest days of a world war, did we struggle against a dictatorship, only to allow our politicians to perpetuate themselves in power?

Instead of renewing our pride in the achievements of the revolutionary generation that gave birth to the nation, Independence Day this year fuels our frustration, deepens our anger, over the shamelessness of the Arroyo administration's attempt to convene a Senate-less constituent assembly. The vote last week was a blatant abuse of power, the ramming-through of a patently unconstitutional measure, in pursuit of a transparently partisan agenda. It was also an assault on history itself—our heroes struggled, suffered, fought, died so that we could live in freedom.

What is freedom for?

The congressmen who voted for Con-ass think they know the real-world answer: Freedom is doing as you please. They did not say it outright, of course, knowing instinctively that naked self-interest has no place in a republic. Instead, they gave reasons like the need for structural reform of the governmental system or the need for more liberalized economic provisions. A few were bold enough to suggest the procedural truth: They called the vote on Con-ass because they had the numbers. They were free, and powerful enough, to do as they pleased.

But this notion that freedom is the power to do as one pleases is not only contrary to republican values; it is also anti-patriotic, if by patria we mean the nation that our heroes built with their sacrifice.

It goes against everything that Apolinario Mabini taught us: we are free only to do good. In his True Decalogue, he reminds us that a republic is made "great through liberty." Freedom, in other words, is the power to do great—publicly virtuous—things. But there is nothing great in the House majority's decision to convene as a constituent assembly. Instead, it is the opposite: base, because of the vulgarity of the House majority's ambition; mean, because of the administration coalition's avarice. Self-interest is not a public virtue.

It also goes against the chief lesson Rizal taught us: we must be worthy of our freedom. We can only deserve liberty if we place the public interest ahead of our own, if we are capable of self-abnegation in the face of temptation or opportunity, if we are ready—as "Fili" enjoins us, in its last pages—"to suffer and to work."

Not least, it goes against the supreme example of Jose Abad Santos and against the meaning of Ninoy Aquino's final sacrifice: the Filipino is worth dying for. This basic principle is true only if we accept that each citizen is sovereign. In the view of the Con-ass congressmen, however, citizens are mere votes to be entertained or distracted or bought. That explains why, despite clear majorities against constitutional change under the Arroyo administration or through the constituent-assembly mode, the Con-ass congressmen have forged ahead, ignoring the people's will. They think, anti-patriotically, that freedom is the power to do as they please.

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True measure

There's The Rub

By CONRADO DE QUIROS

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Someone asked me in a forum some time ago: Whatever happened to the patriotism of the Filipino? It wasn't too long ago when we were willing to die for country. Indeed it wasn't too long ago when we admired Ninoy Aquino for saying "The Filipino is worth dying for." When will we get that spirit back? Or can we still do so?

I said: True enough, we seem to have become a nation of fence-sitters, if not a nation of cowards. A nation of dodgers, if not a nation of deserters. After a couple of EDSA revolts, we seem to have lost our mojo. Despite being governed shabbily, or indeed despite being used and abused, pressed and oppressed, we've said nothing and done nothing, taking it like a dog.

But horrible as that is, I continued, there is something worse. The real question in fact is not, "Will we ever want to die for the country again?" It is: "Will we ever want to live for the country at all?"

The last line of *Lupang Hinirang* says it all: *"Ang mamatay nang dahil sa iyo."* [To die for you.] That has always been our understanding of patriotism, that has always been our practice of patriotism. Patriotism is what we show in the midst of war or the heat of battle. Patriotism is what we show when threatened by a foreign invader or a local tyrant. Patriotism is rising when called upon to resist that foreign invader. Patriotism is rising when called upon to fight the local dictator. Enough to lay down your life for it.

Julian Felipe himself composed *Lupang Hinirang* in those circumstances, in the heat of battle, in the midst of war, in time for the declaration of independence in Kawit 111 years ago on Friday. The lyrics were added the following year, and such was its fervor burning (as the English translation later put it) that the anthem was banned by the Americans from being played or sung by Filipinos under the Flag Law.

Ang mamatay ng dahil sa iyo is not without its dazzling aspects. It is not without its heroic aspects. Heaven knows we have been called upon again and again to show it. We've had no lack of oppressive rules, local and foreign. There was Spanish rule, there was American rule, there was Japanese rule, there was Ferdinand Marcos' rule (at least during martial law), and there is Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's rule (from start to finish, and it looks nowhere near to finishing). The last two EDSAs are proof of our capacity to heed the call, *ang mamatay ng dahil sa iyo.*

That is our glory. But that is also our tragedy.

The willingness to die for country is larger than life. But it is larger than life only because it happens in spurts, in, as Whitney Houston's song puts it, one moment in time. Which is probably why we love it. Though dying for country seems forbidding, it calls on us to exert ourselves only in spurts, only at some points in time. And for most of us anyway, it is merely the appearance of being willing to die for country—an appearance established by PR or rewriting history (look at all the self-proclaimed heroes of the two EDSAs)—that does the trick. The grand gesture—it's all very Spanish, it's all very Filipino. We probably got it from the Spanish anyway throughout their centuries of rule.

In-between the grand gesture, preceding it and proceeding from it, surrounding it and suffusing it, there is a lifetime of living life in not very quiet mediocrity and obscurity. That is our glory and tragedy. We are not unwilling to die for country, we are simply unwilling to live for it. We are able in dazzling moments to become larger than life, but we are reduced for interminable periods to being smaller than life.

Infinitely harder than dying for country is living for country. We have no problems joining EDSA, joining rebellions, or joining coups—or so in the past (we do have problems there today). But we have problems protesting the arrest and jailing of Jun Lozada, the threatened candidacies of Virgilio Garcillano and Joc-joc Bolante, the epic thievery that is routinely being exposed in the Senate hearings. We have problems taking to the streets to protest the killings of journalists and political activists, the ascension of Jovito Palparan to Congress, the "salvaging" of suspects in Davao and elsewhere. We have problems doing something about a legal system that now rewards the wicked and punishes the good.

Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty, Wendell Philips once said. Unfortunately, eternal vigilance is not particularly dramatic. It is not particularly colorful, it is not particularly glorious. It is grinding, it is day-to-day, it is the long, dull, and repetitive walk back and forth a watchman does when he keeps watch at the turrets. But it is what gets things done. It is what saves the fort from the marauding forces. It's good to be larger than life in moments that call for it. But it's better to just be the measure of life the rest of the way. Its rewards are plentiful, even if they do not always come in the form of medals, posthumous or otherwise. You are willing to pay the price of eternal vigilance, you probably wouldn't need EDSA at all. Often enough, if you just lived for country, you need not die for it.

'Rigodon'

Saved From near extinction, the Rigodon de Honor was performed in Malacañang last night during the Independence Day vin d'honneur. Revived by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo last year after an absence of almost three decades, we hope the Rigodon will remain part of Malacañang traditions instead of being associated simply with the name of the ballroom of the Peninsula hotel in Makati.

Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

In modern political usage, "rigodon" also means a Cabinet revamp instead of the formal dance that used to form part of important social functions in Malacañang.

Rigodon got its name from a dance master in the court of Louis XIII named Rigaud who is credited for inventing its basic movements. From 17th century France, the dance caught on and moved to Spain. It was then exported to the Philippines in the 19th century, but over the years it has developed in its own way in Malacañang, becoming a distinct Philippine dance form.

One of the earliest recorded performances of the Rigodon was in January 1878 to celebrate the birthday of the Spanish King Alfonso XII. One will be surprised to learn that there was a time when Malacañang had an official rigodon master to train and rehearse participants for this important court dance.

Don Manuel Yriarte made history by collapsing on the dance floor after giving the signal to begin the rigodon in 1930. Brought to a nearby couch to rest, Yriarte expired of a heart attack—an event that made front-page news the next day.

Fortunately for a modern generation, the revived Malacañang rigodon comes with some historical notes:

"Although there are many versions of it, the rigodon de honor is always in quadrille or square formation, where distinguished or important personages are the cabeceras or head pairs, and those less important the costados or side pairs. The cabeceras always perform the dance steps first, followed by the costados.

"The rigodon is never impromptu as the formations, sequences, arm movements, alignments, style, and precision must be meticulously rehearsed. In all the figures the dancers walk in a stately manner following the rhythm of the music. Etiquette is rigidly observed through refined bows that precede each figure and whenever opposites meet halfway across the hall. Restrained smiles from the women and a dignified mien for the men are expected.

"The entire dance is a continuous criss-crossing either with one's partner or that of the opposite pair. Women are fetched by men in different floor patterns and various maneuvers, ending with varied hand positions. The arms are rhythmically and gracefully swung by the side of the body, or nobly held chest high when holding the hand of and looking at a partner. They may also be gently swung from right to left. While traveling across the floor, the dancers elegantly strut with small steps that barely leave the floor. The footwork and arms are in cadence to a lilting martial 4/4 time.

"After the saludo or anuncio, the dance starts with the figure of ladies meeting, followed by the zeta, casamiento or abanico, visita, cadenilla, cambio pareja, and finally the cadena. The music of the rigodon is composed of at least five numbers, each one complete in itself and usually taken from popular traditional dance tunes."

The rigodon was a stately and formal dance that was meant to be watched rather than performed by all the guests. After the rigodon, everyone was invited to dance to more lively music.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneneo.edu

Samu't Sari

CONGRATULATIONS

Alwyn John Dimaano, a 10th grader at Grace Christian Academy, got the Consistent Honor roll award for school year 2008-2009. His diligence and perseverance also got him the Perfect Attendance Award. He was also a member of the Boys' Varsity Basketball team for GCA. Alwyn is the son of Ador and Lina Dimaano. He is moving to California to continue his high school year.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Angeline Christy Velasco, daughter of Rosaline Alcantara and the late Angelo Velasco, successfully completed her 7th grade, SY 08-09 at Grace Christian Academy. She received 1st place for her group's (with classmate Alyssa and Keena) Science Project on Physics and got participation award as a member of the GCA Juniro Girls Varsity Basketball team member.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NURSING WEEK

Gov. Benigno Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos are joined by officers of the CNMI Nursing Association and other staff of the Commonwealth Health Center in a photo session after the signing ceremony of Nurses Week (June 14-20) at the Governor's Office Thursday morning.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Aileen Camille Dimaano, a 4th grader at Grace Christian Academy, received the Consistent Honor roll award for school year 2008-2009. She was also recognized for placing 2nd in her Scince Project—Physics category together with her classmate, Abigail Deang and Mycah Yobech.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulation to Edward Joseph M. Hofschneider, who graduated Valedictorian of Tinian High School's Class of 2009. Greetings coming from your family and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NEWLYWEDS

Congratulations to newlyweds Darwin and Kumiko Jalova of San Jose Village, Tinian, who got married yesterday, June 12, 2009.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

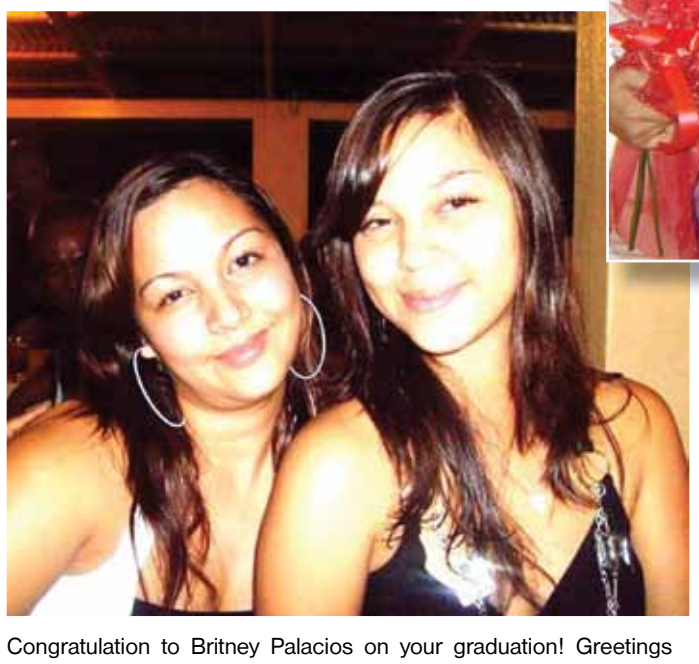
Happy birthday June Pineda! Wishing you all the great things in life, hope this day will bring you an extra share of all that makes you happiest. May all the wishes and dreams you dream today turn to reality. We love you!!!

GREETINGS COME FROM YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

THANK YOU!

DFS Galleria Saipan assistant general manager Ben Babauta receives a plaque of appreciation from Northern Marianas Bartenders Association president Lito Espino in recognition of the company's continued support to the group.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Congratulation to Britney Palacios on your graduation! Greetings come from the BazaLinan Family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday Shirley! God gave a gift to the world when you were born; a person who loves and cares, who sees a person's need and fills it, who encourages and lifts people up, who spends energy on others, who touches each life and makes a difference in the world. May the love you have shown to others return to you multiplied. We love you! Greetings come from your family and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to our daughter, Summer Angel Manahane! It's your third birthday! Here's wishing your celebration brings lots of special moments for you to remember! Love, Mommy and Daddy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Young Style

Ants are really small wonders

By PHILIP KENNICOTT
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—What are the fastest jaws in the animal kingdom?

Forget lions or bears. Think ants. Yes, those critters that you may think of as being picnic pests can use their jaws to attack a grasshopper with lightning speed.

But, as a new exhibition at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History shows, ants are more than fierce warriors. They are also cooperative farmers and ingenious architects.

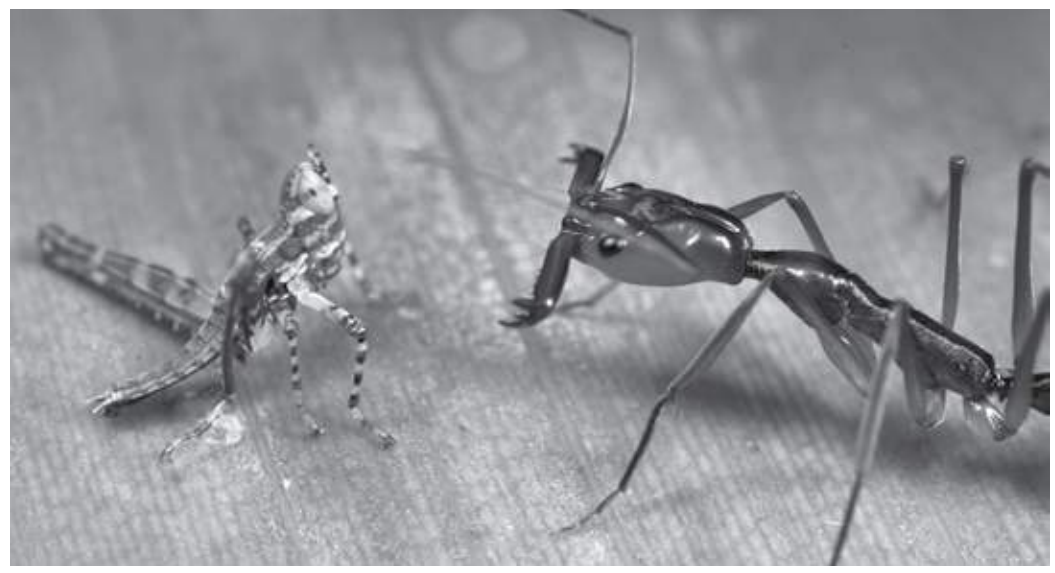
Ants can grow their own food. If you've ever seen a line of ants crossing the forest floor with cut-up green leaves on their backs, you've seen farmers at work. They may not plant seeds or till the ground with a tractor. But they are carefully tending a precious crop. Leafcutter ants eat fungus—their own special, tasty fungus—that grows only in ant colonies. Mid-size worker ants collect the leaves. Then smaller ants break them into bits and chew them into little wads. Then the ants plant little bits of fungus on the chewed-up leaves and wait until it grows into a white, fuzzy fungus. Later, they "harvest" the fungus for food and feed it to their larvae (babies).

THE WASHINGTON POST

A colony of harvester ants, each of them about a quarter of an inch long, dug this series of tunnels, which is about 64 inches deep. This aluminum cast of the tunnels is part of the "Farmers, Warriors, Builders: The Hidden Life of Ants" exhibition at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington.

You wouldn't be able to see this if it weren't for scientists and photographers, such as Mark Moffett, who study ants. Moffett has traveled the world risking attacks by ants and other insects. His pictures show a tiny but complex world of giant nests and complex road systems and epic battles between competing ant colonies.

You can also learn how ants cooperate to survive. In Malaysia, one species of ant uses "public transportation." Larger ants act like buses, carrying dozens of smaller ants into battle. In Panama, army ants travel the land without a permanent home. But by linking their bodies together, they form temporary homes that can protect their young and their queen. Individual ants of another kind work together to carry home their prey, with the smallest ants in the colony using their bodies to fill in holes in the road—like gravel in a pothole—to make the job go quicker.



THE WASHINGTON POST

Mark W. Moffett took this photo of a trap-jaw ant, a type found in tropical and subtropical climates, as it prepared to attack a grasshopper with jaws that move super fast. Moffett's pictures show a tiny but complex world of giant nests and complex road systems and epic battles between competing ant colonies.

The best thing in the exhibition is something that looks like a modern sculpture but is actually a cast of a colony of Florida harvester ants. It was created by pouring hot, liquid aluminum into the long tunnels that reach deep into the ground to smaller rooms. It took seven hours for the cast to cool and harden. But the result is amazing: an exact architectural model of an underground ant city, more than five feet tall.

How enormous a task is that? If a 4-foot-tall child dug a tunnel of proportionate size, it would be about 1,024 feet deep. That's almost twice the height of the Washington Monument.

What lurks on the ocean floor?

By HOWARD BENNETT
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Aside from sunburn, the biggest concern most beachgoers have is getting stung by the occasional jellyfish bobbing around in the water. But there are thousands of sea creatures, including some pretty gross ones, such as the hagfish, sea cucumbers and starfish.

The hagfish is one of the most disgusting inhabitants in the world. The reason the hagfish gets the dubious honor is because it is so gross in so many ways. Consider the following:

■ It has an ugly eel-like body with a jawless, tube-shaped mouth that is surrounded by tentacles.

■ It is both a scavenger and a predator but has a ghastly way of eating. A hagfish enters its prey through the animal's mouth, gills or anus and eats its way out!

Because sea cucumbers don't have lungs, they do not breathe in the traditional sense of the word. However, they still get their oxygen from water, like

Hagfish

most sea creatures, and the water they "breathe" enters their bodies through their anus. The reason this occurs is because the animal's gills are located just inside its rear end.

Seawater isn't the only thing that enters a sea cucumber's bottom. A handful of fish, most commonly pearl fish, have evolved an interesting relationship with sea cucumbers. Young pearl fish swim into a sea cucumber's anus and use it for protection from predators, as a source of nutrients and as a place to hang out until they enter their adult stage of life.

The balance between predator and prey is often bizarre. Most starfish live on shelled animals like clams. (The clam's defensive weapon is its shell.) When it's feeding time, a starfish surrounds its prey with its strong arms. Then, it uses its arms to

Sea cucumber

pry a tiny opening where the animal's shells come together. The starfish then pushes its stomach out through its mouth and inserts it inside the clamshell. Now defenseless, the clam can do nothing but lie there while the starfish eats it. Once dinner is over, the starfish withdraws its stomach, "zips up" and goes on its way.

It's a good thing kids aren't built like starfish. Imagine sit-

Starfish

ting down to the dinner table and plopping your stomach on the plate to eat. Of course, there would be a possible benefit: You could "eat" cauliflower without actually tasting it!

Bennett is a Washington pediatrician and author of health-related books for kids.

By FRED BOWEN
Special to The Washington Post

Bowen is an author of sports novels for kids.

Nationals go for star power in draft

The Washington Nationals selected Stephen Strasburg, a pitcher from San Diego State University, as the Number 1 pick in the Major League Baseball draft Tuesday.

So does that mean Strasburg will be a star for the Nationals? And will the sad-sack team finally start to get better?

Let's take a look.

Strasburg does seem special. He had a record of 13 wins and 1 loss with an earned run average of 1.32 as a junior at San Diego State this past season. (An earned run average, called an ERA, is the average number of earned runs a pitcher allows over nine innings.) Strasburg throws his fastball at more than 100 miles per hour! That's really fast. The average major leaguer throws his fastest pitch around 90 miles per hour.

Any pitcher who strikes out one batter every inning is terrific. This season Strasburg struck out 195 batters in just 109 innings. And Strasburg has good control; he walked only 19 batters.

Still, there are no guarantees, even for the first player picked in the draft. The best college or high school player does not always make the best pro. Just like the best player in fifth grade is not always the big star in high school.

Of course, some of the best players in baseball, such as Ken Griffey Junior, Alex "A-Rod" Rodriguez, Chipper Jones and Joe Mauer, were once the Number 1 pick. But have you ever heard of Steve Chilcott, Al Chambers or Matt Bush? They were Number 1 picks, too.

It's even trickier when a pitcher is the top draft choice. Between 1965 and 2005, 10 pitchers were the Number 1 pick. Only four of them won more than 100 big-league games during their careers. And none of those 10 pitchers became Hall of Fame members or big stars.

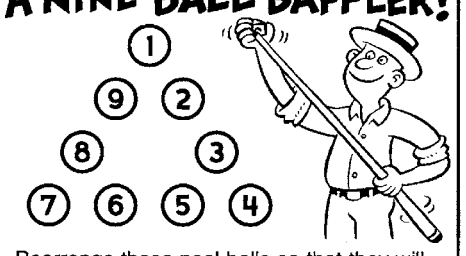
Even if Strasburg turns out to be terrific, it won't mean that the Nationals automatically will be a great team. Remember: A starting pitcher plays only every fourth or fifth game. He can't help his team win the other games.

In 1972, future Hall of Fame pitcher Steve Carlton had a record of 27-10for the Philadelphia Phillies. But that year the Phillies were the worst team in the National League, with a record of 59-97. Carlton stuck with the Phillies as they got some better players, including Hall of Fame third baseman Mike Schmidt. The Phillies, led by Carlton and Schmidt, won the World Series in 1980.

Right now, the Nationals are the worst team in baseball. They will need lots of good pitchers and other good players to get better.

The Nats, and their fans, are hoping Stephen Strasburg can be one of those good players.

A NINE BALL BAFFLER!



Rearrange these pool balls so that they will total 20 along all three sides.

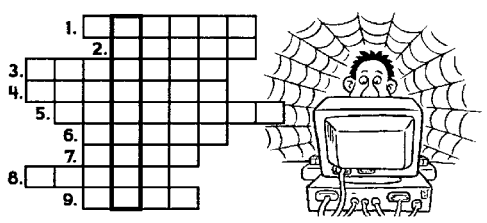
DON'T SCRATCH ON THIS ONE! Chalky gives you 3-to-1 odds that you can't solve this puzzle! You have two minutes.

Answer: There are many answers. Our solution: start with the top ball and go around clockwise: 5, 7, 6, 2, 9, 1, 8, 4, 3.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

THE WEB MASTER



In the grid on the left, there is room for nine terms associated with the Internet. The following hints should help you navigate our web and lead you to the correct words.

1. To be up and running.
2. Web messages.
3. Used to get around the Web.
4. Internet location.
5. Unit of computer storage (very big).
6. A computer disaster.
7. Type of Web page.
8. Bad for your computer.
9. Unwanted messages.

There is a dark frame around one of the columns in the grid. If you solve the puzzle, the letters in the frame, top to bottom, will give you the name of a group of single-topic messages.

Answers: 1. Online. 2. Email. 3. Browser. 4. Website. 5. Gigabyte. 6. Crash. 7. Home. 8. Virus. 9. Spam. The dark-framed column spells "Newsgroup."

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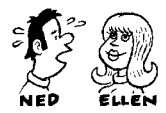
Illustrated by David Coulson

AT A LOSS FOR WORDS!
How could Nervous Ned, using only eight letters, tell this young lady that he thinks she is delightful?



Answer: U-R-A-B-U-T-L-N.

IT'S MAGIC! Use the numbers 2 through 13 to fill in this Magic Number Square. The numbers in each horizontal row, and vertical column, should total 41. We've filled in four of the squares. The rest is up to you. Use trial-and-error — and a good eraser.

		18	
17			
	20		
			19

Answers: First row: 9, 12, 18, 2. Second row: 17, 3, 8, 13. Third row: 4, 20, 10, 7. Fourth row: 11, 6, 5, 19.

What if cat eats poisoned mouse?

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Do you know if rat poisons are harmful to cats that eat a rat or mouse that has died from it? I don't see any warning on the package. I'm nervous about using it. Thanks.—Dee in Palmyra, N.Y.

DEAR DEE: In my opinion, yes, a cat that eats a rodent that had ingested poison could very well be affected by that poison as well. Some rat poisons work by slowly building up in the rodent's system through repeated feedings, so that by the time the rodent dies, it has a fairly concentrated buildup of poison in its system.

One particular ingredient to watch for is warfarin. This anticoagulant is present in many store-bought rat poisons. It's effective because it doesn't have a particular odor or taste, so pests can't detect it. But it's certainly dangerous to predators that might eat the pest afterward, particularly those of a lower weight, like cats.

If you're going to use a rat poison to rid an area of these pests, you must keep pets out of that area.

Alternatives to poison include box and snap traps, and preventative measures. Secure the traps to the ground so rodents can't drag them away.

To reduce the risk of rat infestation, it must made difficult or undesirable for the rodents to live in that area. Around houses, prune back shrubs and trees so they do not touch the building. Stack lumber, boxes and other outdoor storage at least 2 feet away from the house, and keep compost piles well away. Remove potential food sources as well: Seal up garbage cans and pet food containers, and remove leftover pet food from dishes and bird feeders.

Even these measures might not always be effective. If you're reluctant to use poisons but an infestation is severe or not abating despite your efforts, contact a professional pest-control service for help.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was British fantasy writer Terry Pratchett who made the following sage observation: "The trouble with having an open mind, of course, is that people will insist on coming along and trying to put things in it."

■ In ancient Egypt, cats were held in such high esteem that the penalty for killing one was death.

■ The next time you feel frazzled from trying to keep up with your kids, consider the plight of 18th-century mom Mrs. Feodor Vassilyev. Over the course of 40 years, she gave birth to 16 pairs of twins, seven sets of triplets and four sets of quadruplets—69 children in all.

■ When he arrived in the United States from Italy in 1913, renowned film star and sex symbol Rudolph Valentino could speak no English. By the time he died in 1926, at the age of 31, he was so adored that, as reports of the time indicate, many of his female fans succumbed to mass hysteria.

■ You might be surprised to learn that Arlington National Cemetery is built on the site of the former estate of Confederate General Robert E. Lee.

■ Reports out of India in the early 20th century indicated that there was a Hindu fakir named Agastiya in the Bengal region who decided, out of religious conviction, to hold one arm straight above his head. Experts say that the first few months would be the difficult part; after that, the arm would have no circulation and would remain rigid. Agastiya reportedly held this position for 10 years, until his death in 1912, and even in death the arm could not be lowered.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "He who knows only his own side of the case knows little of that." —John Stuart Mill

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MAGIC MAZE ● LITTLE —

M R O L H E B X U R O L I E B
Y V S Q N K H E B B Y W L T R
O L J K G E B N E M N E E R G
Y W U R C P R A S C A L S N K
I G D B Z O R X V G M T S Q O
M K I R H N R R U G G T E C A
N Y W G E U S E Q P I I N L J
H H I M F P E G D C B L A Y X
V B O U S Q P N P N E Y N M K
J W H J F E C I R U O B R A H
B Z Y X V U T F D R T W Q P O

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Bear	Dipper	John	Toe
Big Man	Finger	League	Women
Bighorn	Green men	Rascals	Wonder
By little	Harbour	Rock	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	+		x		60
–		x		+	
	+		x		40
x		+		x	
	÷		x		42
49		19		72	

1 2 3 4 6 6 7 8 9

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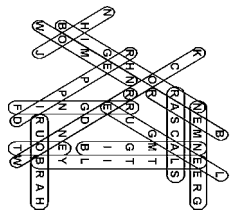
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

9	+	6	x	4	60
–		x		8	40
2	+	3	x	1	42
x		+		6	
7	÷	1	x	9	49

A Father's Day portrait of pop

Donna's Day — Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

So many family photos hide in our computers, scrapbooks and photo albums. Some make it into frames on a dresser or piano. But how about taking a step beyond photos, and display an original portrait on a wall in your home?

This Father's Day, surprise Dad with a present he'll love—a portrait drawn by your child. OK, so, it sounds like a unique gift idea, but how do you draw Dad?

I asked Cynthia McGovern, art specialist at Minnehaha Academy, a pre-K-12 school in Minneapolis, for a few portrait-drawing tips she uses with her students.

She suggests that you encourage your child to feel her face/head contours, nose, cheekbones, eyebrows and ears with her fingers. Together, talk about the location of these features. Combining the tactile, the visual and a little discussion builds on understanding of shape and position. Plus, there is the added benefit and fun of sharing time to look—really look—at one another.

Now transfer that knowledge of "face basics" to your own drawing of Dad. Here's how:

■ Take a photo of Dad from the waist up to use as inspiration for the portrait.

■ On the matte side of an 8-inch-by-12-inch sheet of poster board, sketch Dad's portrait with a pencil. Be sure to include his neck and shoulders so that it doesn't look like a floating balloon head! Also, add pupils looking in a particular direction when drawing the eyes. For fun, add Dad's favorite pet, or put a hat on his head of a favorite team or past-time.

■ Go over the pencil lines with a color crayon. Press heavily.

■ Use a standard Crayola watercolor paint kit to paint the portrait. Be sure the paint is very watery so that it appears transparent on the poster board. Don't worry if the paint goes over the crayon lines, as it adds to the natural look of the portrait. Let dry. (Or, simply color with crayons and use watercolors for the background).

FRAME IT UP!

Make and decorate a frame made from a cereal box:

Cut a large cereal box into two squares or rectangular shapes larger than the portrait you are framing with one piece slightly larger than the other.

The larger of the two pieces is the frame and the small piece is the backing. Cut out the center of the frame to leave an opening for the art to show.

Put a few globs of glue randomly on the frame front, and affix pieces of pasta shells, wheels, rotini, elbows, etc. For a jazzy look, an adult may spray it with gold paint outside. Let dry, then attach the portrait to the backing with tape. Place the frame on top. Tape in place.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Life & Style

Expert says Carradine did not commit suicide

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The forensics expert hired by David Carradine's family has concluded that the "Kung Fu" actor did not commit suicide, but said that more information was needed from Thai investigators before the cause of death could be determined.

Carradine's brothers, Keith and Robert Carradine, each read part of a prepared statement to reporters from The Associated Press at a Los Angeles hotel Thursday morning. In their first appearance since their older brother was found hanging in a Bangkok hotel room closet last week, they thanked supporters and asked for privacy.

"This is a devastating loss for our family and we greatly appreciate the compassion pouring in from all over the world," Keith Carradine said.

They also released a statement by Dr. Michael Baden of New York that indicated a second autopsy determined Carradine didn't kill himself.

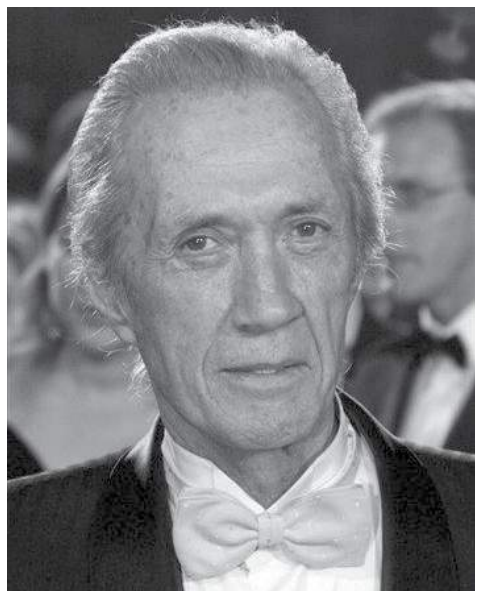
"However, to reach a final determination as to the cause and the manner of death we must wait for further information from Thailand as to the scene findings and the completion of the crime laboratory and toxicology studies that are still being performed," Baden's statement said.

Reached by phone after the morning briefing, Baden said he expects to receive more information from Thai authorities in a week or two and stressed that the information at hand was incomplete. Baden didn't elaborate on how suicide was ruled out

"The autopsy is only part of the analysis," he said.

In the meantime, Robert Carradine asked the public and press for patience and time to allow the family to grieve.

"Until we have all of the pending results of the investigation we respectfully ask ... that we be allowed to lay our beloved brother, husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather to rest in peace and with dignity," Robert Carradine said.



AP

This May 17, 2003 file photo shows American actor, David Carradine, smiles as he arrives for the screening of the documentary"Ghosts Of The Abyss," during the 56th Film Festival in Cannes, France.

Rampant speculation about the actor's death has swirled since a chambermaid at the luxury Swissotel Nai Lert Park Hotel in Bangkok discovered his body hanging in the closet of his room June 4. A Thai newspaper published a graphic photo of the death scene that police have said appears to be a leaked forensics image.

Thai police initially said they suspected Carradine's death was a suicide, but later conceded it could have been accidental. Their description—that the actor's body was found nude, with ropes around his neck, wrist and genitals—fueled speculation that he was killed while engaging in a dangerous sex practice called auto-erotic asphyxiation.

Thai authorities said on June 5 that it would take about three weeks for the results of their autopsy to be released.

Medical examiners in the United States and Canada generally classify auto-erotic asphyxiation deaths as accidental.

Keith Carradine last week asked the FBI to take a role, and Thai authorities later said they would allow FBI agents to observe their investigation, but not take an active role. FBI spokeswoman Laura Eimiller said earlier this week that the agency would not make any more comments about its role in the Carradine investigation, but that agents stationed in Thailand have a good relationship with local authorities.

Agents typically only get involved in the deaths of U.S. citizens abroad when foul play is involved, she said.

Others who knew the 72-year-old actor have said they suspect foul play was involved. Keith and Robert Carradine on Thursday urged everyone to wait until the investigation has concluded.

"Once the investigation is fully completed and definitive conclusions have been reached, we will address the findings with the public," Robert Carradine said.

Both Keith and Robert Carradine shared the screen with their brother, a prolific TV and film actor. David Carradine rose to prominence for his role on the "Kung Fu" series in the 1970s and experienced a resurgence in popularity after his role in Quentin Tarantino's "Kill Bill" movies earlier this decade.

The family's statement did not indicate the location of his body, or offer any information about funeral arrangements. They did not take questions Thursday after reading the statements.

Letterman hunts for jokes in Palin feud

NEW YORK (AP)—David Letterman joked Thursday that things are now fine now between him and Sarah Palin because the Alaska governor called and offered to take him hunting.

She'd done nothing of the sort, of course, continuing a feud with the CBS late-night host that may wind up being well-timed for Letterman in the second week of his new competition with Conan O'Brien on NBC's "Tonight" show.

"I'm Dave Letterman, making friends wherever I go," Letterman said at the opening of Thursday's show, a day after he apologized for wisecracks aimed at Palin and one of her teenage daughter—even as he milked the situation for more laughs. His lengthy discourse on Wednesday blended flashes of contrition with more pokes at Palin and her family.

Letterman invited Palin to come on his show, which her spokeswoman declined with a shot of her own.

AP

Republican Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin waves as she arrives at a Republican congressional fundraiser, Monday, June 8, 2009, in Washington.

Letterman had made several jokes on Monday's monologue about the Palin family's visit to New York.

His Top Ten list featured "Highlights of Sarah Palin's Trip," and included: "Bought makeup at Bloomingdale's to update her 'slutty flight attendant' look."

But the diciest joke centered on the family attending a Yankees baseball game.

Letterman said "an awkward moment" occurred for Palin when, "during the seventh inning, her daughter was knocked up by (Yankee third baseman) Alex Rodriguez."

Without naming her, the joke seemed to refer to Palin's 18-year-old daughter Bristol, an unwed mother.

But it was 14-year-old daughter Willow, not Bristol, who had been at the game.

Todd Palin issued a statement that said "any 'jokes' about raping my 14-year-old are despicable."

And Sarah Palin charged Letterman with "sexually perverted comments made by a 62-year-old male celebrity."

"I am not a celebrity," said a deadpan Letterman, interrupting himself as he read the statements aloud on Wednesday's show. "I'm 62 years old, but I'm not a celebrity."

He denied the joke was meant to be about Willow Palin.

"I would never, never make jokes about raping or having sex of any description with a 14-year-old girl," he said, dropping his signature sarcasm. "I don't think it's funny. I would never think it was funny."

"I'm not necessarily proud of these jokes," he said in a more ironically self-deprecating moment. "We do stuff all the time and our objective here is to get a laugh, and thank God we don't have to go to the Hague and the World Court to defend them. It's a joke and that's all it's supposed to be."

Before he was done, he tried to boil down the situation into two key points, which he stated with playful precision:

"Am I guilty of poor taste? Yes.

"Did I suggest that it was OK for her 14-year-old daughter to be having promiscuous sex? No."

He also invited Palin to be a guest on his show, saying, "I think we could put these differences behind us." But the offer, extended to both Palin and her husband ("or leave Todd at home," Letterman suggested), was turned down on Thursday.

"The Palins have no intention of providing a ratings boost for David Letterman by appearing on his show," said Palin spokeswoman Meghan Stapleton. "Plus, it would be wise to keep Willow away from David Letterman."

Property owners forgive Alba plastering posters

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—The owners of property plastered with great white shark posters said Thursday they have little interest in pursuing criminal vandalism charges against actress Jessica Alba, who already has apologized for her role in the stunt.

Oklahoma City police are continuing to investigate the allegations, but haven't interviewed the 28-year-old co-star of the "Fantastic Four" movies, "Sin City" and "Good Luck Chuck." Investigators first plan to meet with the property owners to see if they are willing to prosecute, said police Sgt. Gary Knight.

"That's typical for how we handle all investigations of this nature," Knight said. "You want to make sure you have a victim that's willing to prosecute.

"Typically in cases like this if people don't want to prosecute, often times the case is closed."

Police found the posters—aimed at raising awareness about the sharks' declining numbers—glued to a downtown bridge, utility boxes and a billboard for the United Way charity.

Earlier this week, photographs surfaced on a Web site that apparently show Alba hanging some of the posters and posing before the defaced billboard. Alba is in Oklahoma filming "The Killer Inside Me," which co-stars Casey Affleck and Kate Hudson.

All the property owners contacted by The Associated Press Thursday say they don't want to see Alba prosecuted.

"It's not our intent to pursue any type of charges," said Brian Alford, a spokesman for electric utility Oklahoma Gas & Electric. "I think if we have a cost associated with the removal we would hope to be compensated for that cost, but at this point it's a lesson learned and we just want to put it behind us."

Telephone and e-mail messages left Thursday seeking comment from Alba's publicist about whether she plans to reimburse the property owners or United Way were not returned.

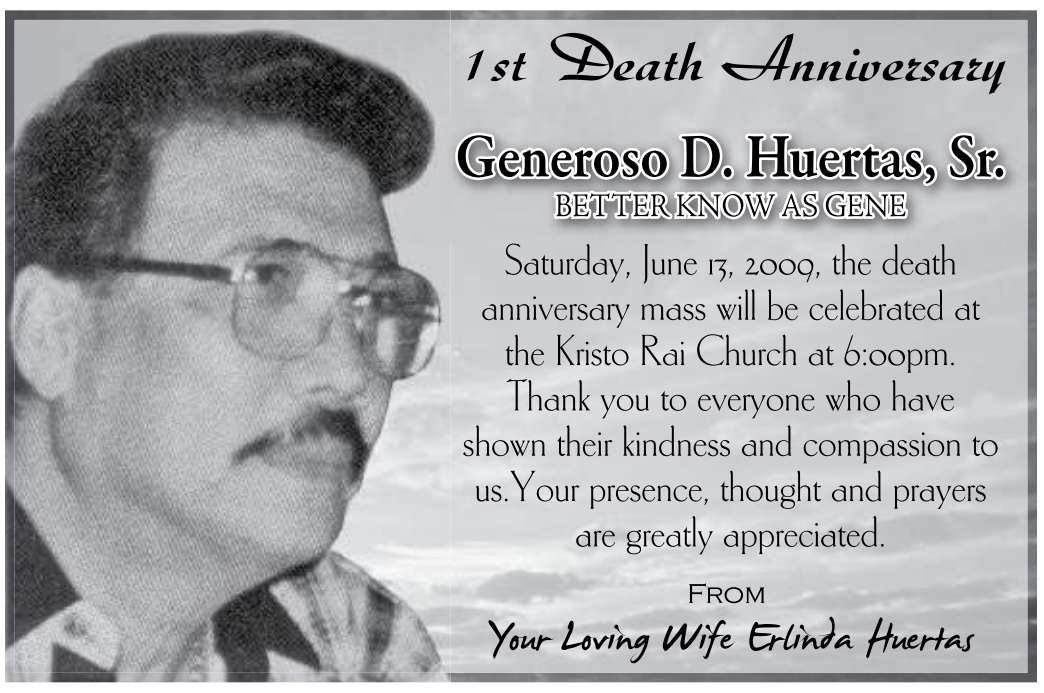
AP

In this May 20, 2009 file photo, Jessica Alba arrives for the opening of the exhibition "Between Eternity and History: 1884-2009" on the occasion of Italian luxury jewelry maker Bulgari's 125th anniversary, in Rome's Palazzo delle Esposizioni palace.

An official with Oklahoma City's Parks and Recreation Department filed the initial police report, but a city spokeswoman said Thursday they aren't interested in pursuing criminal charges.

"The apology that she made through her publicist, I think, was enough for us," said spokeswoman Kristy Yager.

The United Way advertisement, which was donated to the charity by a billboard company, has since been removed.


1st Death Anniversary
Generoso D. Huertas, Sr.
BETTER KNOW AS GENE
Saturday, June 13, 2009, the death anniversary mass will be celebrated at the Kristo Rai Church at 6:00pm. Thank you to everyone who have shown their kindness and compassion to us. Your presence, thought and prayers are greatly appreciated.
FROM
Your Loving Wife Erlinda Huertas

Chastity Bono announces sex change

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Chastity Bono is having a sex change to become a man. A spokesman for Bono, born a girl to Sonny and Cher, says he "has made the courageous decision to honor his true identity" and began the sex-change process earlier this year.

Publicist Howard Bragman said Bono is proud of his decision and hopes "that his choice to transition will open the hearts and minds of the public regarding this issue."

In this April 7, 1998 file photo, Chastity Bono is shown in Palm Springs, Calif.

AP

The 40-year-old writer, activist and reality-TV star came out as gay 20 years ago, Bragman said.

In the book "Family Outing: A Guide to the Coming-Out Process for Gays, Lesbians, & Their Families," Bono describes the realization of being "somehow different—specifically different from who my mom expected me to be."

A message left with Cher's representatives was not immediately returned Thursday.

Bono's second book, "The End of Innocence: A Memoir," details how relationships with Joan, a lover, and Sonny and Cher changed after coming out.

In 1995, Bono posed for the cover of the gay magazine The Advocate and began working for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD).

Rourke's ready to rumble as Iron Man villain

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mickey Rourke's bruising opponents in "The Wrestler" don't look so tough compared to his new foe: Robert Downey Jr.'s Iron Man.

Distributor Paramount has released the first photo of Rourke as villain Whiplash in the upcoming sequel, "Iron Man 2."

Rourke is dressed for battle in the image, his torso and arms wrapped in metal braces sporting weapons and a chest device resembling the portable power plant that runs Downey's Iron Man suit.

While Downey is completely encased in his metal suit, Rourke's Whiplash outfit shows off a lot of flesh, along with plenty of tattoos coating the character's skin.

Directed by Jon Favreau, "Iron Man 2" kicks off Hollywood's 2010 summer season next May 7.

AP

In this image released by Paramount Pictures, Mickey Rourke is shown in character during the filming of "Iron Man 2."

Aerosmith keeping in touch with young fans

NEW YORK (AP)—Aerosmith may be nearly 40 years old, but the group is staying connected with younger audiences.

The band is teaming up with "Guitar Hero" for their new tour, and they say the video game has helped them keep in touch with a younger generation of music lovers.

"We have little kids coming up to us all the time asking us for this song and that song that they actually have no right asking about," said Joe Perry, the group's lead guitarist. "I mean, songs from records from 20, 30 years ago. It's amazing."

This is not the first time Aerosmith has linked up with "Guitar Hero." Last year, "Guitar Hero: Aerosmith," which followed the band's career, was released.

For the tour, which kicked off this week, "Guitar Hero" fanatics can rock out with Aerosmith, and a few lucky ones will be able to open up for the band—playing the video on stage in front of thousands.

AP

Vocalist Steven Tyler of the rock band Aerosmith performs at the Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre Wednesday, June 10, 2009, in Maryland Heights, Mo.

"We're actually inviting some kids in the audience to come up and be the opening acts for us along with ZZ Top. They get a chance to come up to jam with Joe and Joe's going to play with them and do what he does so well," frontman Steven Tyler said.

The band is also planning on their 15th studio CD. Tyler's recent battle with pneumonia and Perry's knee infection put a halt to recording new music, but they'll resume once the tour wraps in September.

Tyler said they hope to go "where no band has taken it before ... When we come up with something that we just have this need to say and do, we'll do it however we can and get the best producers."

But more important than making new music, the band says touring is what's kept them strong through the years.

"We happened to play a lot of live (shows), that's what got us together and so far, that avenue of pleasure hasn't been cut off from us and we'll continue to keep doing it as long as it feels good," Perry said.

US writer Michael Thomas wins lucrative book prize

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP)—American writer Michael Thomas won one of the world's most lucrative literary prizes Thursday for his debut novel "Man Gone Down."

A panel of judges from Ireland, Britain, Switzerland and Canada named Boston-born Thomas, 41, the winner of the euro100,000 (US$140,000) IMPAC Dublin Literary Award.

"Man Gone Down" follows a thirty-something African-American man, broke and estranged from his wife and three children, who has four days to keep his family afloat and reclaim his stake in the American Dream.

Irish writer James Ryan, one of the judges, said the novel was "brilliant in its scope and energy, and deeply moving in its human warmth."

Ryan said readers never learn the name of the book's central character, but "he lingers because this extraordinary novel comes to us from a writer of enthralling voice and startling insight."

Thomas's novel was selected from 145 books nominated by libraries around the world. The prize is open to any novel, whether English-language or translated, published in English in the preceding year.

"Man Gone Down" was chosen from a shortlist of eight books from the United States, France, India, Pakistan and Norway.

The other finalists were "The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao," by Junot Diaz; "The Burnt-Out Town of Miracles," by Roy Jacobsen; "Ravel," by Jean Echenoz: "Animal's People," by Indra Sinha; "The Reluctant Fundamentalist," by Mohsin Hamid; "The Archivist's Story," by Travis Holland; and "The Indian Clerk," by David Leavitt.

The prize is run by Dublin's public library system and financed by Improved Management Productivity and Control, a Florida-based management consultancy that has its European headquarters in Dublin.

'View' co-host Joy Behar to start cable talk show

NEW YORK (AP)—Joy Behar (BAY'har) has too much to say for just one hour a day, so the veteran co-host of ABC's "The View" plans to double up with her own show on HLN.

Behar

The cable network, formerly known as Headline News, says "The Joy Behar Show" will star the comedian and TV personality in a talk-and-interview hour airing nightly at 9 p.m. Eastern.

It will premiere this fall, with the popular "Nancy Grace Show" as lead-in. It replaces a repeat of CNN's "Lou Dobbs Tonight."

Behar will continue her day job on "The View," where she's been a fixture since that program began in 1997.

Adopted child needs to know his family history of addiction

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My 14-year-old son, "Adam," has known he was adopted since he was old enough to understand. Adam's birth parents both were addicted to drugs, alcohol and tobacco. In fact, Adam tested positive for cocaine at birth.

Should I tell him that he is at risk for addiction because of his biological heritage? I want him to be aware, yet I don't want to badmouth his birth parents or in any way lead him to think that this is his destiny. I know he associates with kids who may be involved in these things.

CONCERNED MOM IN ATLANTA

DEAR CONCERNED MOM: Frankly, you should have had this conversation with Adam by the time he was 9. He must definitely be given this information. To remain silent would be like failing to warn a child with balance problems not to walk a tightrope.

It would not be "bad-mouthing" to explain to Adam that because his adoption records show his parents were both addicts, it's extremely important that he avoid addictive substances because he could become addicted more easily than the average person. Explain that while it isn't a guarantee that he'll become hooked, the tendency is there. Forewarned is forearmed.

DEAR ABBY: I am one of your male readers. A year and a half ago, my brother was killed in an automobile accident by a drunk driver. We are a very close family, and everyone was devastated. My sister-in-law, "Grace," and I were always close, and we have become closer lately. Now we're discussing the possibility of a relationship.

Grace has three grown sons, and I realize there could be issues or concerns with the boys and our families, but we feel they would want us to be happy.

Is this something that is acceptable, and does it happen often? We have never discussed the fact that I am not my brother and cannot—and never would try to—replace him. I couldn't. He was a great man.

LOOKING FOR INSIGHT IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR LOOKING FOR INSIGHT: While I do not have any statistics about widows and widowers becoming romantically involved with former in-laws, I can tell you that this situation is not as unusual as you might think, and the subject has appeared before in my column. It is understandable that you and Grace would be drawn to each other. You have years of shared history in common, and that could form the basis of a very successful union. If you love each other, I say go for it.

DEAR ABBY: When I take a break at work I like to read, but I am often interrupted by co-workers. Even though they see me reading, they insist on starting a conversation. I don't mean to be rude, but it is relaxing for me to "escape" for a few minutes, and I feel robbed when I can't enjoy my latest book. It is too far to go to my car, and we are not supposed to leave the area anyway.

What can I do or say without being considered unkind?

ANITA IN CINCINNATI

DEAR ANITA: Try this—nicely warn your co-workers in advance that reading is your form of relaxation and you would appreciate it if they let you concentrate on your book during your break. That way, everyone will get the message in a nonconfrontational way.

Another thought: Place a Do Not Disturb sign with large lettering next to you if you think it will help them get the hint.

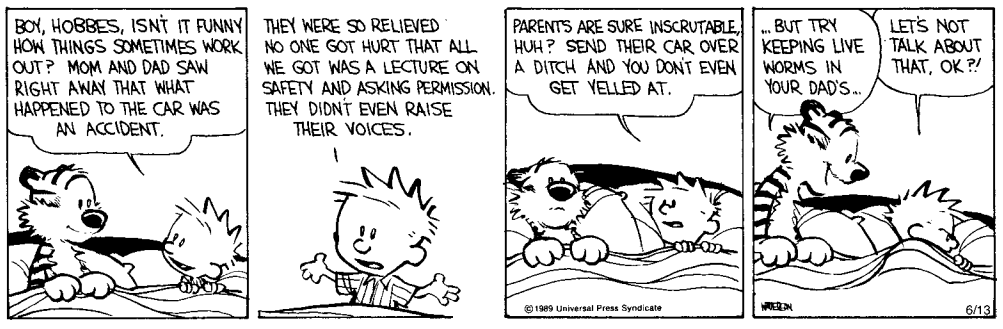
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


BOY, HOBBES, ISN'T IT FUNNY HOW THINGS SOMETIMES WORK OUT? MOM AND DAD SAW RIGHT AWAY THAT WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CAR WAS AN ACCIDENT.
THEY WERE SO RELIEVED NO ONE GOT HURT THAT ALL WE GOT WAS A LECTURE ON SAFETY AND ASKING PERMISSION. THEY DIDN'T EVEN RAISE THEIR VOICES.
PARENTS ARE SURE INSCRUTABLE, HUH? SEND THEIR CAR OVER A DITCH AND YOU DON'T EVEN GET YELLED AT.
...BUT TRY KEEPING LIVE WORMS IN YOUR DAD'S...
LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT THAT, OK?!
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6/13

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

GARFIELD, I'M THINKING ABOUT TAKING YOU TO A PET PSYCHIC
I WANT TO UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE THINKING
"FEEEEEED ME..."
GARFIELD
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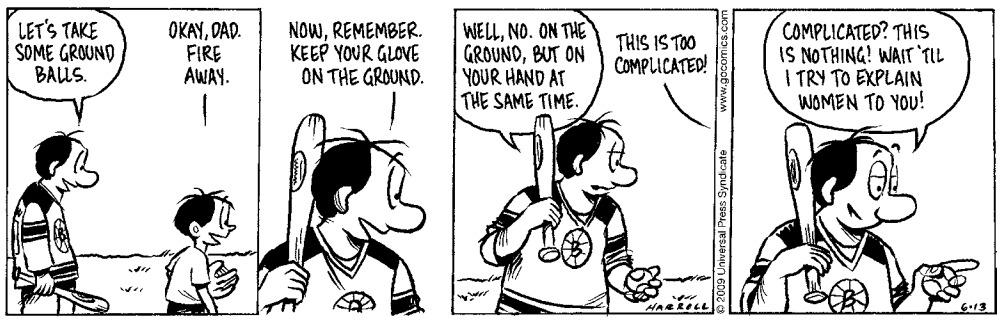
www.garfield.com
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
JIM DAVIS 6-13

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


LET'S TAKE SOME GROUND BALLS.
OKAY, DAD. FIRE AWAY.
NOW, REMEMBER. KEEP YOUR GLOVE ON THE GROUND.
WELL, NO. ON THE GROUND, BUT ON YOUR HAND AT THE SAME TIME.
THIS IS TOO COMPLICATED!
COMPLICATED? THIS IS NOTHING! WAIT 'TIL I TRY TO EXPLAIN WOMEN TO YOU!
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www.gocomics.com
6-13

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Predicament
4 Temperate
8 Cold War weapon
12 Khan title
13 State with certainty
14 Contendere preceder
15 Tex- —
16 Donate
17 Oil container
18 "Crazy" singer
21 "Of course"
22 Jazz instrument
23 Won every game
26 Church seat
27 Winehouse or Fisher
30 Horse play?
31 Proof ending
32 Sheltered
33 Fine, to NASA
34 Drag behind
35 Beginning
36 Mariners' milieu
37 Story of a lifetime?
38 Commonwealth
45 Earring location
46 "Mayday!"
47 Pirates' potation
48 Largest of the seven
49 Pennsylvania port
50 Doctrine
51 Soak up some rays
52 Bambi, e.g.
53 Bashful

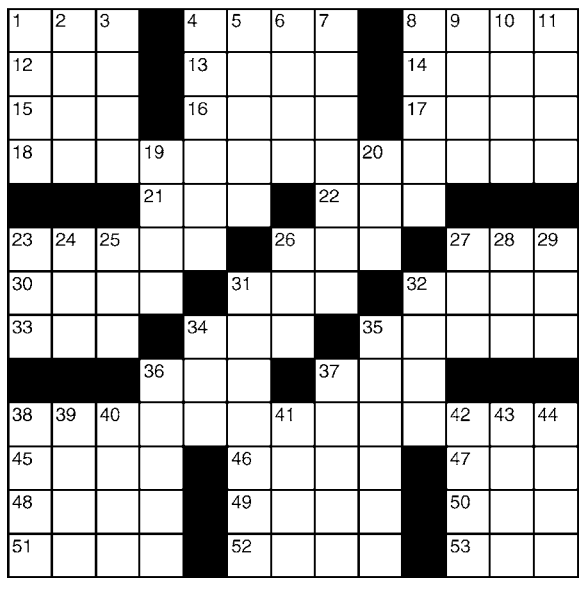
DOWN

1 Doorframe piece
2 Antiquing apparatus
3 Extra-long
4 Lodestone
5 Climbing plants
6 Impose, as a tax
7 Clad
8 Textbook's last chapter, often
9 Mrs. Julius Dithers
10 Astigmatism factor
11 Mid-May honorees
19 Glitch in print
20 Manhandle
23 Resort
24 Court
25 Wapiti
26 Cribbage scorer
27 Carte lead-in
28 Mal de —
29 Nevertheless
31 Suppressed completely
32 On
34 Mainlander's memento
35 Smirk
36 Surf and turf component
37 Prove false
38 Spill the beans
39 Artist Bonheur
40 Wading bird
41 Roll call reply
42 Eye part
43 Mr. Limbaugh
44 Tube trophy

Solution time: 27 mins.

G	A	T	■	C	A	W	■	T	H	E	I	R
U	R	I	■	O	R	E	■	H	A	R	R	Y
E	G	G	■	L	I	E	S	A	W	A	K	E
S	U	E	■	A	S	P	E	N	■	■	■	■
T	E	R	M	■	E	Y	E	■	T	O	M	E
■	■	■	E	O	N	■	D	V	O	R	A	K
C	H	I	L	D	■	■	A	P	A	C	E	■
P	E	K	O	E	S	■	D	N	A	■	■	■
A	M	E	N	■	A	P	E	■	Z	O	L	A
■	■	■	P	I	E	C	E	■	P	I	N	■
C	A	N	T	S	L	E	E	P	■	I	L	K
A	D	I	O	S	■	V	I	I	■	N	T	H
R	O	B	O	T	■	E	T	C	■	E	S	S

Yesterday's answer 6-13



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen, 23; Raz-B, 24; Rivers Cuomo, 39; Tim Allen, 56

Happy Birthday: Move fast to make the most of the opportunities that you come across this year. Strive to be unique and to contribute something that will set you apart. There is plenty to gain if you are smart, efficient, keep your costs down and fine-tune what you produce. Your numbers are 6, 9, 18, 29, 33, 37, 42

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't stop or slow down when you are so close to getting what you want. You have some fabulous ideas. A friendship that offers information, guidance and equal opportunity is available. Don't misinterpret the possibilities. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You'll lose out if you let someone you have an emotional attachment to ruin your plans or hold you back. Call the shots instead of letting someone else rule your world. Mingle with people offering mutual benefits. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Keep any information that may work against you hidden. You have to be smart about the way you approach what you want. A little Gemini charm will get you into some interesting conversations. Don't limit yourself. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You can make a difference if you take your best shot at something you believe in. Your ability to pull things together and be responsible for the outcome will prove your leadership skills. Demonstrate your efficiency. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): This is not the time to gamble or make promises that will leave you short emotionally, financially or personally. A lover's spat can be expected if you have fallen short on a promise you made. Don't let anyone bully you into overspending. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Put time aside for someone you enjoy being around or from whom you can learn. A great experience will lead to some interesting changes at home, making your life easier. Communication must be honest. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): The time spent relaxing and enjoying a little time away from your regular routine will do you good and inspire you to start something new. Don't let someone's jealousy ruin your time or your plans. Put yourself first. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't rely on someone to come through with a promise. A twist in a relationship or partnership you are involved in will upset your world but, in the end, will push you to get involved with someone who can offer you more, creatively and financially. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Question your motives before you get into something you may not want to finish. A change at home will leave you with little choice. Visit someone who may be able to help you out initially and give you suggestions for attaining your goals. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Think about how others will react before agreeing to a life-altering choice. A move or renovation to your premises will raise your assets. Build a space to accommodate some of the projects you want to work on from home. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You may get caught in a lie if you agree to help someone without having all the facts. Not everyone around you is trustworthy. You'll find it difficult to hide your feelings if someone disappoints you. Get things out in the open. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Your need to jump from one thing to another will annoy someone counting on you for help. Try to address the issues succinctly. Not everyone will be as quick to catch on as you. Don't judge or criticize what others do or say. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are creative, innovative and a great storyteller. You are aggressive, strong-minded, unpredictable and secretive.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				7				8
9		1		2				
	2				3		4	
			3			6	8	
		9				1		
	7	4			9			
	1		5				3	
				6		4		1
6				3				

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	1	4	8	9	2	7	3	5
7	3	8	5	1	4	2	6	9
5	2	9	3	6	7	8	4	1
9	8	5	1	4	3	6	7	2
4	6	3	2	7	9	1	5	8
1	7	2	6	8	5	4	9	3
8	4	7	9	3	1	5	2	6
2	9	6	7	5	8	3	1	4
3	5	1	4	2	6	9	8	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/12

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LAVENDER **Solution: 7 letters**

T	G	S	C	G	S	R	A	Y	R	E	S	R	U	N
T	E	L	E	P	N	P	A	W	I	L	D	M	O	T
S	N	X	A	V	I	I	A	T	N	E	C	S	S	N
E	U	O	T	N	L	S	R	S	C	S	A	W	E	A
V	S	T	K	U	H	A	H	P	T	E	E	Y	L	R
R	S	D	N	S	R	S	S	E	S	E	N	E	A	G
A	I	E	I	I	E	E	M	U	T	D	L	L	I	A
H	S	N	R	R	M	V	O	N	A	S	B	L	M	R
O	E	(P)	F	U	E	E	A	S	L	A	U	O	A	F
N	I	(A)	F	S	C	T	N	E	L	D	D	W	L	O
E	D	(R)	L	A	U	E	S	M	L	N	S	A	A	L
Y	E	(K)	B	R	D	M	S	A	O	U	V	T	V	I
P	M	R	A	R	C	A	M	P	H	O	R	E	A	A
R	E	L	A	X	I	N	G	E	R	R	L	R	R	G
H	R	G	R	O	W	I	N	G	R	G	G	B	E	E

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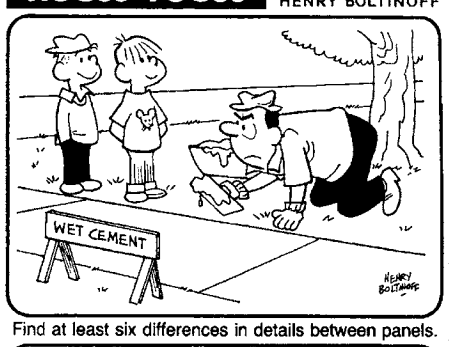
Asterids, Balms, Bloom, Buds, Camphor, Cures, Flavor, Foliage, Fragrant, Fresh, Gardens, Genus, Ground, Growing, Harvest, Heal, Herbaceous, Honey, Lamiales, Lavare, Leaves, Mint, Natural, Nectar, Nursery, Park, Pastel, Perfumes, Pink, Relaxing, Remedies, Salves, Scent, Season, Seeds, Soaps, Spring, Stem, Summer, Sweet, Tall, Texture, Wash, Water, Wild, Yellow

Yesterday's Answer: Pop-Up

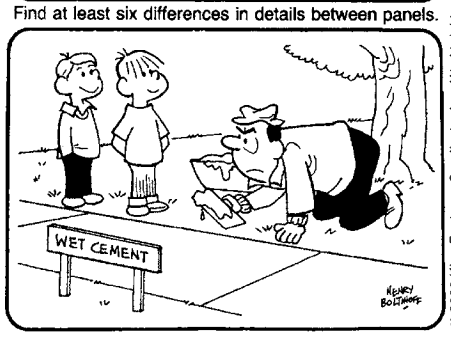
Treasury 5 or 7 Send check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 postage and handling each ($14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Universal Press Syndicate, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480 Order online at upuzzles.com.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Sign legs are different. 2. Hat is missing. 3. Man's sleeves are longer. 4. Boy's shirt is different. 5. Tree trunk is broader. 6. Distant walkway is missing.

Wishing Well®

8	6	2	7	3	8	2	5	2	3	4	6	5
D	Y	C	S	M	I	A	L	U	A	Y	O	O
4	6	2	7	6	4	6	3	6	5	3	7	8
O	U	T	H	R	U	E	K	C	O	E	A	S
2	6	8	2	6	4	3	5	6	7	6	2	5
I	E	P	O	I	R	B	K	V	R	E	N	F
8	2	8	2	5	4	3	6	3	8	3	5	2
L	A	A	D	O	E	O	P	L	Y	D	R	V
4	2	7	6	2	4	3	8	6	2	7	4	8
A	I	E	R	S	P	M	K	I	E	I	R	I
4	8	6	7	3	4	2	6	4	7	5	3	5
E	N	Z	D	O	W	D	E	A	E	W	V	A
8	3	8	7	8	5	4	7	5	4	8	4	8
D	E	N	A	E	R	R	S	D	D	S	S	S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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Super Crossword

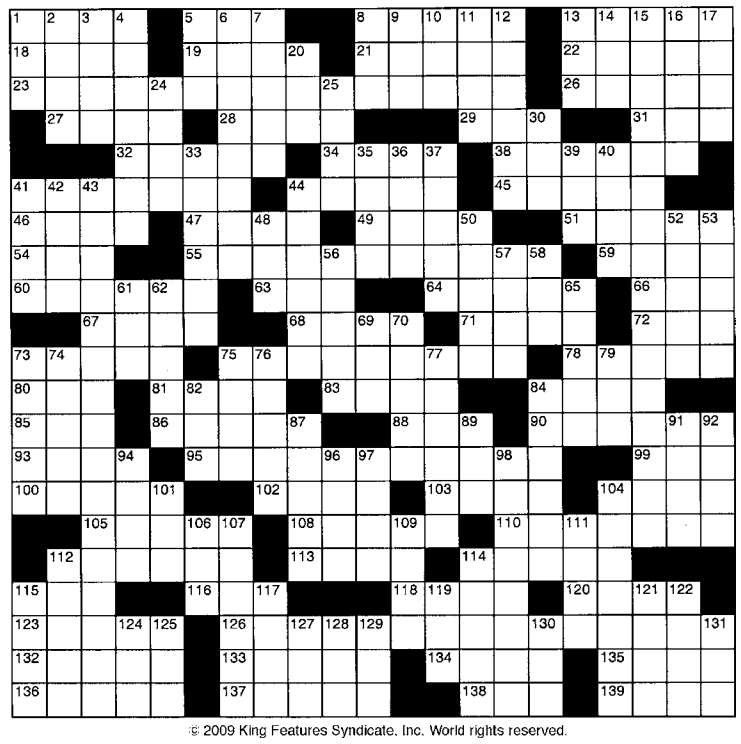
GUY STUFF

ACROSS

1 "Doctor Zhivago" role
5 "The — Daba Honeymoon" ('14 song)
8 Type of orange
13 Big name in travel
18 Son of Rebekah
19 Puppy bites
21 Singer Shirley
22 "— Gay"
23 Guy Mitchell tune
26 Claire of "Brokedown Palace"
27 Jolt
28 Coarse flour
29 White lie
31 Dit's cousin
32 Seafood selection
34 Certain horses
38 Round Table knight
41 "The Odd Couple" actor
44 "The Jungle Book" bear
45 Artless
46 Tennis legend
47 WWII site
49 Buffalo waterfront
51 "Taras Bulba" author
54 Mineral suffix
55 Guy de Maupassant story
59 42 Down's mistress
60 Vasco the voyager
63 '70 Jackson 5 hit
64 Baby bird?
66 Zeus, to Apollo
67 "Exodus" author
68 Auto pioneer
71 McGregor of "Moulin Rouge"
72 When the French fry
73 Faded away
75 Guy Lafleur's team
78 Made eyes at
80 Urchin
81 Inland sea
83 Semester
84 Entreaty
85 Card game
86 Printer's stroke
88 Recede
90 Soccer team
93 Puzzle direction
95 Guy Kibbee film
99 Word form for "outer"
100 Confer
102 "What's — for me?"
103 Libertine
104 "So this is the thanks —!"
105 Call to mind
108 Rattle
110 Abide
112 Stopped a sedan
113 Fitzgerald or Raines
114 Steep slope
115 Seed
116 Humor
118 "—, Brute?"
120 Mortgage, e.g.
123 Parcel out
126 Guy Lombardo hit
132 Steakhouse order
133 Desert refuge
134 Swedish import
135 Mozart's "La Clemenza di —"
136 Brolin/Sellecca series
137 Range rope
138 Three, in Turin
139 1492 or 1776

DOWN

1 Actor Tremayne
2 Sale stipulation
3 Talk wildly
4 Monsieur Rodin
5 Abby's twin
6 Loud lout
7 Director Michael
8 One of the Bushes
9 Everything
10 Winter malady
11 Vassal's holding
12 Commission
13 Nourished
14 "— Carousel" ('67 hit)
15 Guy Williams role
16 New York city
17 Hasty
20 — Na Na
24 Foot part
25 Exile site
30 Herd word
33 They sport dreadlocks
35 Waugh or Baldwin
36 Michael of "Cabaret"
37 Taints
39 Assumed mane?
40 Revlon rival
41 A sweeping success?
42 Movie terrier
43 Guy Fawkes conspiracy
44 Candy
48 Grazing ground
50 Consumed
52 Emulate Demosthenes
53 Filled the hold
56 Celebrity
57 Intimidates
58 Cy Young stat
61 Exist
62 He had a gilt complex
65 Hillock
69 Presidential monogram
70 Vamp
73 Dorian Gray's creator
74 O'Neill's "— for the Misbegotten"
75 "Fame" star
76 Cover story?
77 Board
79 "— whiz!"
82 Yank opponent
84 Murcia money
87 It's good to have around the house
89 Buddy
91 Part of CEO
92 Chris of "Sex and the City"
94 — Scotia
96 Window part
97 Nat. of Naples
98 Brawny
101 Pan for Yan
104 Irreverence
106 London's — Gardens
107 Magazine employee
109 Columnist Herb
111 French airport
112 Tolkien character
114 Mar. honoree
115 Walkway
117 Siamese
119 QB's stats
121 Sedgwick or Falco
122 Part of NB
124 TV's "— Life to Live"
125 — Aviv
127 Maestro — -Pekka Salonen
128 Fragment
129 Botanist Gray
130 Lyman or Lincoln
131 Scand. country



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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. MOVIES: In which movie did the actor Jeremy Irons play his own twin brother?
2. TELEVISION: What show spawned the spinoff sitcom "Good Times" in the 1970s?
3. MUSIC: What kind of instrument is a fife?
4. GEOGRAPHY: Where is the Nullarbor Plain?
5. PERSONALITIES: Where was humorist Garrison Keillor born?
6. SCIENCE: What is the third most common element in the Earth's atmosphere by percentage, after nitrogen and oxygen?
7. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the official anthem of the United Kingdom?
8. LITERATURE: In which of Shakespeare's plays do the characters of Beatrice and Benedick appear?
9. GEOLOGY: What was the name of the single "supercontinent" from which modern-day continents are believed to have formed?
10. ASTRONOMY: Which planet's two moons are named Phobos and Deimos?

Answers

1. "Dead Ringers"
2. "Maude"
3. A small flute
4. Australia
5. Minnesota
6. Argon
7. "God Save the Queen"
8. "Much Ado About Nothing"
9. Pangaea
10. Mars

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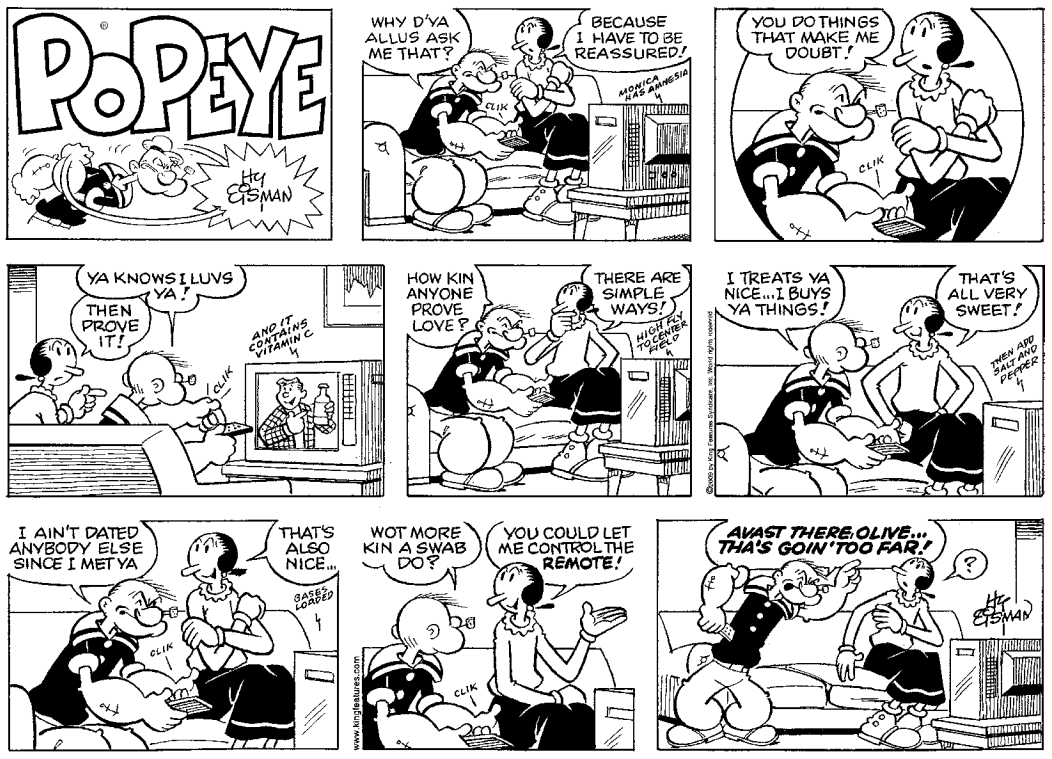
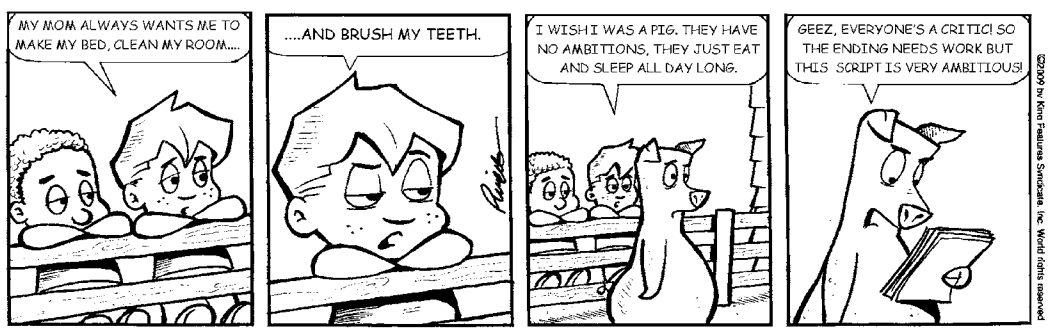
Saturday's Answers


POPEYE
HEY EISMAN
WHY D'YA ALLUS ASK ME THAT?
BECAUSE I HAVE TO BE REASSURED!
MONICA HAS AMNESIA
CLIK
YOU DO THINGS THAT MAKE ME DOUBT!
YA KNOWS I LUVS YA!
THEN PROVE IT!
AND IT CONTAINS VITAMIN C
HOW KIN ANYONE PROVE LOVE?
THERE ARE SIMPLE WAYS!
HIGH FLY TO CENTER FIELD
I TREATS YA NICE... I BUYS YA THINGS!
THAT'S ALL VERY SWEET!
THEN ADD SALT AND PEPPER
I AIN'T DATED ANYBODY ELSE SINCE I MET YA
THAT'S ALSO NICE...
GASSED LOADED
WOT MORE KIN A SWAB DO?
YOU COULD LET ME CONTROL THE REMOTE!
AVAST THERE, OLIVE... THA'S GOIN' TOO FAR!
HEY EISMAN
www.kingfeatures.com

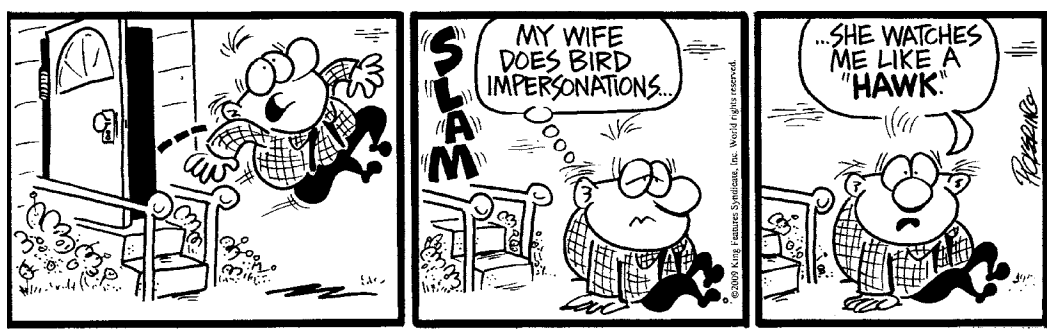
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

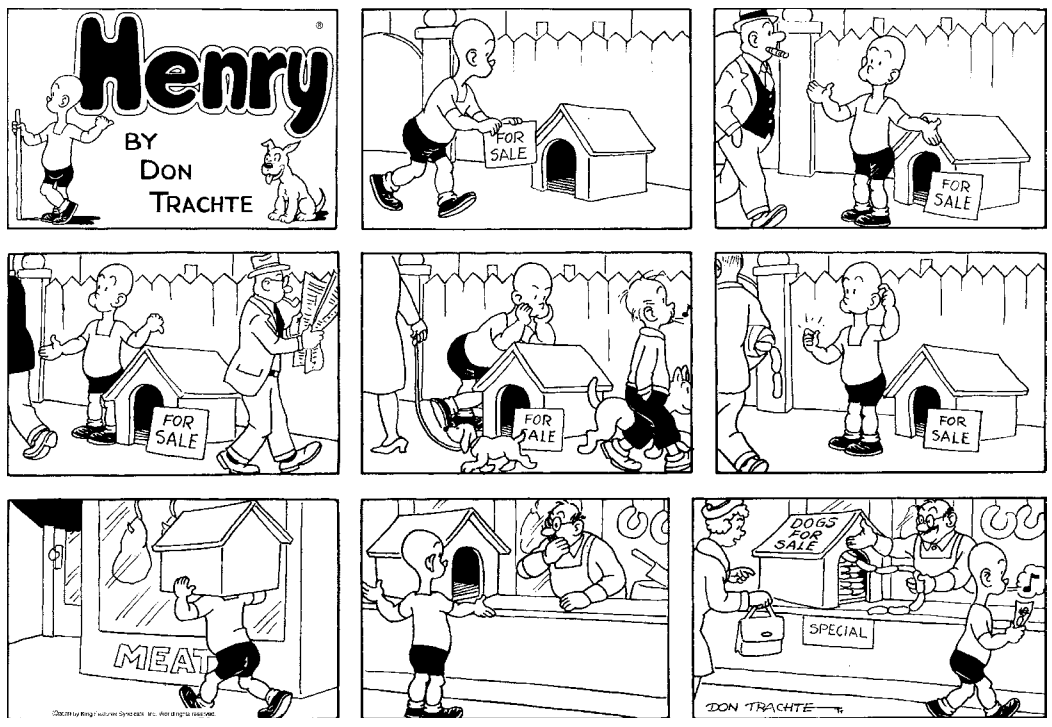

MY MOM ALWAYS WANTS ME TO MAKE MY BED, CLEAN MY ROOM....
....AND BRUSH MY TEETH.
I WISH I WAS A PIG. THEY HAVE NO AMBITIONS, THEY JUST EAT AND SLEEP ALL DAY LONG.
GEEZ, EVERYONE'S A CRITIC! SO THE ENDING NEEDS WORK BUT THIS SCRIPT IS VERY AMBITIOUS!

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



MARK TRAIL
SHREWS ARE ONE OF THE SMALLEST AND PROBABLY THE MOST BELLIGERENT MAMMALS FOR THEIR SIZE IN THE WORLD
THERE ARE OVER 300 SPECIES DISTRIBUTED AROUND THE GLOBE, AND THEY PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE DESTRUCTION OF INSECTS AND SMALL RODENTS
THE TINY SHREW SPENDS MOST OF ITS LIFE SEARCHING FOR FOOD, FOR IF IT DIDN'T EAT CONTINUOUSLY IT WOULD DIE WITHIN HOURS
TO PREVENT GETTING SEPARATED, ONE MEMBER WILL GRASP ONTO ITS MOTHER'S TAIL, THEN THE REMAINING MEMBERS WILL HOOK ON TO THE CHAIN IN A SIMILAR MANNER
SO SMALL AND SECRETIVE IS THE SHREW THAT YOU MAY NEVER SEE ONE UNLESS YOUR CAT BRINGS ONE INTO THE HOUSE TO SHOW OFF ITS PRIZE
WHEN A MOTHER WHITE-TOOTHED SHREW LEAVES HER NEST, HER FAMILY OFTEN TAGS ALONG
JACK ELROD



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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

SHIRE HAMLET

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Find today's solution in this section

WHATZIT Solution: Horseplay

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235- NEWS

Derek Fisher saves Lakers in Game 4

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Kobe Bryant is one win from an NBA title to call his own.

Derek Fisher got him there.

Fisher forced overtime with a 3-pointer with 4.6 seconds left in regulation and then drilled another one with 31.3 seconds to go in overtime as the Los Angeles Lakers outlasted the Orlando Magic 99-91 in Game 4 on Thursday night to open a 3-1 lead in the NBA finals.

It was the first time since 1984, when Magic Johnson's Lakers and Larry Bird's Celtics hooked up, that two games in a finals have gone to overtime.

When the clock expired, Bryant, trying to win his first championship without Shaquille O'Neal, looked at Tiger Woods and wiped sweat from his brow in relief. Fisher, who has bailed out the Lakers in plenty of big games before, thrust both arms in the air in triumph.

The Lakers can wrap up their 15th title on Sunday night in Game 5.

Bryant finished with 32 points, eight assists and seven rebounds. Trevor Ariza and Pau Gasol each had 16 for Los Angeles, which came back from a 12-point halftime deficit. Ariza had 13 of the Lakers' 30 points in the third quarter.

The Lakers are 7-0 following a loss in this postseason.

Unless they can force a Game 6, the Magic will remember this as another finals game that got away.

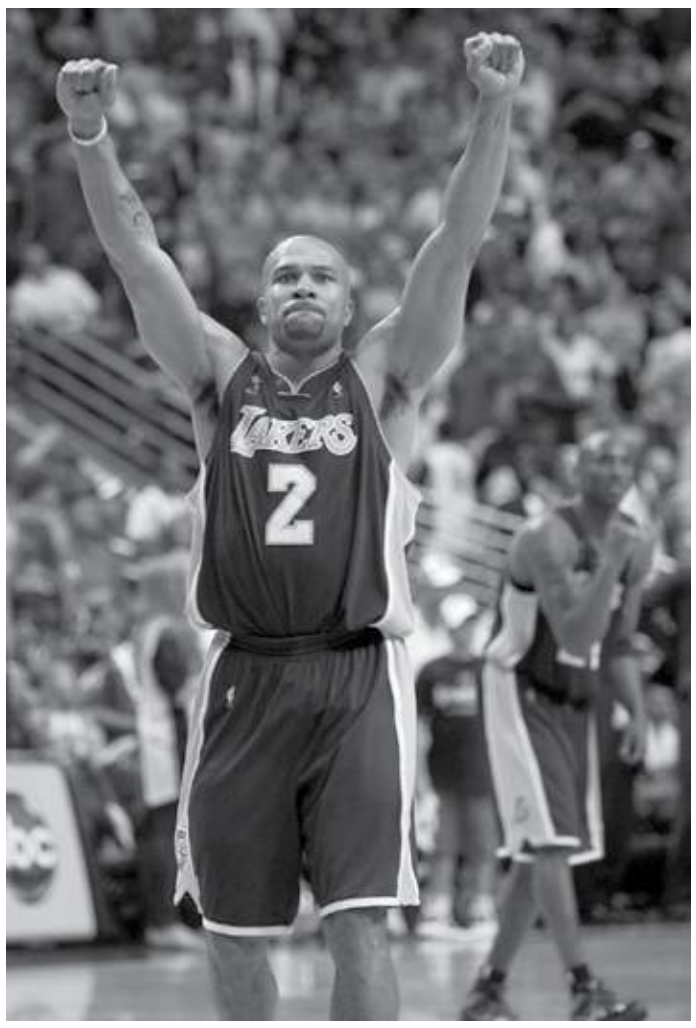
Dwight Howard was magnificent everywhere but at the free-throw line. Orlando's superman of a center had 16 points, 21 rebounds and a finals-record nine blocks. But he made just 6 of 14 foul shots, and it was his two crucial misses with 11.1 seconds to go in regulation that doomed the Magic.

First, Fisher, who has made a career of hitting memorable shots in clutch situations, pulled up and without hesitating dropped a 3-pointer over Orlando's Jameer Nelson with 4.6 seconds left to tie it 87-87. The shot stunned the Magic's maniacal crowd, which was hoping the home team could win its second straight finals game after dropping its first six.

"I was just going to take over and kind of survey the situation but Nelson was giving me a lot of space and I like to step into those 3s," Fisher said. "Even though I wasn't making them, I felt like I could do that. I felt good to help the team that way."

Fisher had missed his first five 3s, but came up with one the little left-hander will cherish forever.

"My teammates and my coaches kept giving me that confidence to continue to believe in myself," Fisher said. "I wanted to come through for the guys."



AP

Los Angeles Lakers' Derek Fisher celebrates the Lakers' 99-91 overtime win over the Orlando Magic in Game 4 of the NBA basketball finals Friday, June 12, 2009, in Orlando, Fla.

Just as they did in Game 2, Orlando had one final try, and this time guard Courtney Lee, who misfired on a tougher-than-it-looked layup in that loss, wasn't on the floor. The Magic inbounded the ball to Mickael Pietrus, but his long and contested jumper was off.

Bryant scored two quick baskets in the overtime, and Howard tied it when he split two free throws with 1:27 remaining.

On L.A.'s next trip, Ariza grabbed his own miss to get another 24 seconds and Fisher lined up and drilled his 3-pointer from the top of the key to make it 94-91.

As he retreated down court and Orlando called a timeout, the Lakers bench stormed onto the court and surrounded the popular 34-year-old Fisher, who came back to the team after a short stint in Utah.

The Lakers spent the first half in foul trouble, complaining to the officials and generally out of sorts. Ariza was given a technical for slamming the ball to the floor and coach Phil Jackson got T'd up for shouting something from his high chair on L.A.'s bench.

Appearing in their 30th finals, the Lakers acted more like first-time visitors to a city choked with tourists.

"Fakers!" yelled one Magic fan.

"Cry babies!" screamed another.

The Los Angeles players and coaching staff slowly left the floor at halftime facing a 12-point deficit and seemingly in trouble.

They came back a different team.

After going just 1 of 10 on 3-pointers in the opening half, the Lakers made three straight 3s—two by Ariza—to start the second half, and when Bynum made two free throws with 5:58 left in the quarter Los Angeles was up 55-54, its first lead since 8-7.

Odom dropped another 3, Orlando's J.J. Redick matched it and the Lakers forward made a layup to give Los Angeles a 63-61 lead.

On Orlando's next possession, Howard grabbed a rebound just outside the lane that Bryant wanted more. Reaching in, he tore the ball from Superman's powerful grip and then broke free from his Olympic teammate, who grabbed him around the waist.

Bryant, Fisher and the Lakers, shooting for redemption after losing to Boston in last year's finals, wouldn't be denied.

Comeback commandos in these playoffs, the Magic now must put together their biggest rally.

They've been rallying all spring. They twice trailed Philadelphia in the opening round before sending the 76ers off to summer camp. Then, they fell behind Boston 3-2 but stormed back and dethroned the defending champions in a Game 7 on the road.

Given little chance against Cleveland, they toppled King James in six games and wrecked the Kobe-LeBron dream finals.

They didn't come close to matching their record 63 percent shooting effort in Game 3 and now have to hope they can come up with something as remarkable before their act vanishes.

Mickelson gets back to work and under par

AP

Phil Mickelson, center, jokes with Padraig Harrington, lef, of Ireland, left, and a caddie before teeing off for the day on the 10th hole during the first round of the St. Jude Classic golf tournament in Memphis, Tenn., Thursday, June 11, 2009.

ST. JUDE CLASSIC

MEMPHIS, Tenn.(AP)—Phil Mickelson wasted no time firing up fans with birdies on the opening two holes. Then came a sliced tee shot into the water and a nearly four-putt green. He birdied two of the last three holes.

A typical round for one of golf's most unpredictable stars.

Returning to work for the first time since disclosing last month that his wife has breast cancer, Mickelson got off to a solid start in the St. Jude Classic with a 2-under 68 that left him four shots behind Brian Gay.

Mickelson wore a pink ribbon stitched into the side of his white cap and at times looked fatigued.

Jose Maria Olazabal, a two-time Masters champion recently elected to the World Golf Hall of Fame, was the day's surprise. Still coping with arthritis pain, the Spaniard shot a 66 to finish in a group that included Rich Beem and Graeme McDowell.

Under heavy clouds that brought brief showers midway through his round, Mickelson was easy to spot because of the some 750 fans following him—one man dressed all in pink.

John Daly's comeback was for vastly different reasons, and the result not quite the same.

He played on the PGA Tour for the first time since a six-month suspension for off-course activities that brought unwanted publicity. Daly opened with eight straight pars and a birdie, but his putter failed him miserably. He followed with three straight bogeys for a 72.

"Probably the worst I've putted in five years," Daly said, wearing a neon green shirt that matched his argyle pants of green and yellow.

He offered little in how it felt to be playing before fans near his hometown in Arkansas, who followed him around the TPC Southwind and were treated to a round with few highlights, good or bad.

Gay has narrowly missed out on qualifying for the first two majors, although he has one chance left. Having won at Hilton Head last month, a victory this week would get him into the U.S. Open. He led by one shot over Jimmy Walker.

Mickelson openly shared his emotions and fears before the tournament. He was more guarded after his round Thursday, sticking mainly to his golf and the tropical vacation after the U.S. Open a week before Amy has surgery and begins treatment.

"It wasn't a great round, but it was a good start," Mickelson said. "It was fun to play a little bit."

He was particularly pleased with his group—three-time major winner Padraig Harrington and Cameron Beckman. They chatted between shots, although his talk with Harrington before the round might have been the most meaningful.

Harrington won his first two PGA Tour events in 2005 while his father battled cancer. He missed the British Open that summer at St. Andrews when his father died.

"I know when my dad had cancer, the easiest time was on the golf course because you don't have to answer any questions," Harrington said. "You don't have to explain yourself on the golf course. You've got to remember—we're quite proficient at dealing with that little white golf ball, not quite as good about explaining our emotions."

Mickelson spent seven hours practicing at Bethpage on Tuesday, then flew to Memphis for a news conference and a pro-am round. He rose at dawn Thursday for his first round on a course he has not played in eight years. But he said he felt fine, and had all afternoon and Friday morning to rest.

He could not have scripted a better start to his round, opening with an approach to 5 feet for birdie and holing a 25-foot birdie putt on the next hole, the par-3 11th.

Asked if it felt like a typical round, he replied, "Once we got going."

"I felt a little rusty, but I made a couple of birdies early, and that made it more relaxed," he said.

He made a bogey from a bunker was among the leaders until his only poor shot of the day at the worst spot, from the 18th tee. His ball went left into the pond, and Mickelson took double bogey.

He excited his following with a 3-iron around a tree and over the water on the par-5 third for a two-putt birdie, but gave that back when he three-putted the next green, having to make a 4-footer for his bogey.

Olazabal played four rounds at the Memorial, failed to make it through 36-hole U.S. Open qualifying on Monday and still hurts from injuries that have limited his play in recent years. He sure wasn't expecting a 66, or his name atop the leaderboard.

"But that's the game of golf," he said. "I played pretty solid today and managed to score well. I have to say that the greens were a little soft after the rain, and I think that helped a little bit."

Jerry Kelly was among those at 67, an important start because a victory would his second this year and get him to Bethpage Black.

Athletics rally late for 4-3 win over Twins

OAKLAND, California (AP)—Rajai Davis slapped an RBI single in the ninth inning as the Oakland Athletics rallied from a late three-run deficit for a 4-3 victory over the Minnesota Twins in the American League on Thursday.

Adam Kennedy hit a tying two-run homer in the three-run eighth for the A's, who finally solved Minnesota starter Nick Blackburn before splitting the four-game series on a soft hit by Davis.

Red Sox 4, Yankees 3

At Boston, J.D. Drew hit an RBI single to spark an eighth-inning rally, then scored the go-ahead run on Mike Lowell's fly ball to help Boston improve to eight wins without loss against New York this year.

It's the first time the Red Sox have opened the season with eight straight wins against their New York rivals since they helped christen the brand-new Fenway Park by winning the first 14 matchups against the Highlanders in 1912.

Rangers 1, Blue Jays 0

At Arlington, Texas, Kevin Millwood threw 7 2-3 excellent innings as Texas beat Toronto for only its fourth 1-0 victory in 16 seasons since moving into Rangers Ballpark in Arlington.

Texas got its run when Marlon Byrd hit a sacrifice fly off Ricky Romero (3-3).

White Sox 4, Tigers 3

At Chicago, Scott Podsednik hit an RBI single off Joel Zumaya with the bases loaded in the ninth inning, lifting Chicago over Detroit.

The start of the game was delayed nearly three hours by rain. The Tigers almost made it an even longer day when Curtis Granderson hit a tying, two-run homer off closer Bobby Jenks (1-2) with two outs in the top of the ninth.

Rays 11, Angels 1

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Carlos Pena hit a three-run homer and drove in four runs, and Dioner Navarro homered and had three RBIs as Tampa Bay trounced the Angels.

Pena hit his 19th homer of the season off Rich Thompson to make it 11-1 in the eighth. Pena also had a third-inning sacrifice fly.

Indians 4, Royals 3

At Cleveland, Choo Shin-soo lined a single off a low-flying sea gull, driving in Mark DeRosa from second base in the 10th inning to give Cleveland a win over Kansas City.

DeRosa opened the inning with a single off Kyle Farnsworth (1-4).

Mariners 6, Orioles 3

At Baltimore, Russell Branyan homered and drove in three runs to lead Seattle past Baltimore.

Branyan contributed a sacrifice fly during a three-run rally in the third, then capped his night with a 450-foot blast in the seventh. Branyan's team-leading 14th homer tied for the sixth-longest at Camden Yards.

Rockies 5, Brewers 4

At Milwaukee, Aaron Cook pitched shutout ball into the seventh inning as the Colorado Rockies won their eighth straight game by holding off the Milwaukee Brewers.

Ian Stewart homered and scored three times for the Rockies, who won three in a row at Miller Park after completing a four-game sweep at St. Louis this week.

Phillies 6, Mets 3, 10 innings

At New York, Raul Ibanez hit a three-run homer with two outs in the 10th inning as Philadelphia handed its NL East rival New York another difficult loss.

Shane Victorino got the winning rally started with a one-out single off Bobby Parnell (2-2). After Chase Utley walked, Ken Takahashi came in and struck out Ryan Howard as the crowd at a misty Citi Field roared. But Ibanez followed with a drive over the wall in right-center for his 21st homer.

Cardinals 6, Marlins 5

At Miami, pinch-hitter Colby Rasmus hit a go-ahead single in the eighth inning after a costly error by center fielder Cody Ross to lift St. Louis over Florida.

The Cardinals rallied for three runs in the eighth. Ross allowed Ryan Ludwick's RBI single to get past him for a two-base error that let an additional run score, and Rasmus followed with his tiebreaking hit.

Pirates 3, Braves 1

At Atlanta, Andy LaRoche hit a two-out, two-run single in the ninth inning for Pittsburgh to split the four-game series.

Atlanta's Javier Vazquez gave up only two hits, one of them a fifth-inning homer to Delwyn Young, in eight innings. He matched his season high with 12 strikeouts and took over the NL lead with 105.

Astros 2, Cubs 1, 13 innings

At Houston, Geoff Blum drove in the winning run for the second straight game, hitting an RBI single in the 13th inning for Houston. Blum singled down the right-field line off Jose Ascanio to score Hunter Pence.

Derrek Lee homered for Chicago with one out in the ninth.

Diamondbacks 2, Giants 1

At Phoenix, Max Scherzer allowed three hits over 7 2-3 dominant innings and Justin Upton drove in two runs with a homer and RBI single to lead Arizona over San Francisco.

Scherzer (3-4) struck out six and walked one.

Nationals 3, Reds 2

At Washington, Cristian Guzman scored the go-ahead run on a throwing error by Cincinnati second baseman Brandon Phillips in the eighth inning for Washington to win.

With the bases loaded and one out, Ryan Zimmerman bounced a slow grounder to shortstop Alex Gonzalez, who flipped to Phillips to force Alberto Gonzalez. As Anderson Hernandez crossed the plate with the tying run, Phillips threw wildly to first, allowing Guzman to score.

Matansa, Korean Juniors strikers win men's league debuts

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Matansa Football Club and the Korean Football Association of Saipan Juniors started their campaign in the 2009 NMIFA Men's Football League on a winning note after prevailing in separate games last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Matansa played in the first game in the regular season and downed MP United, 7-4.

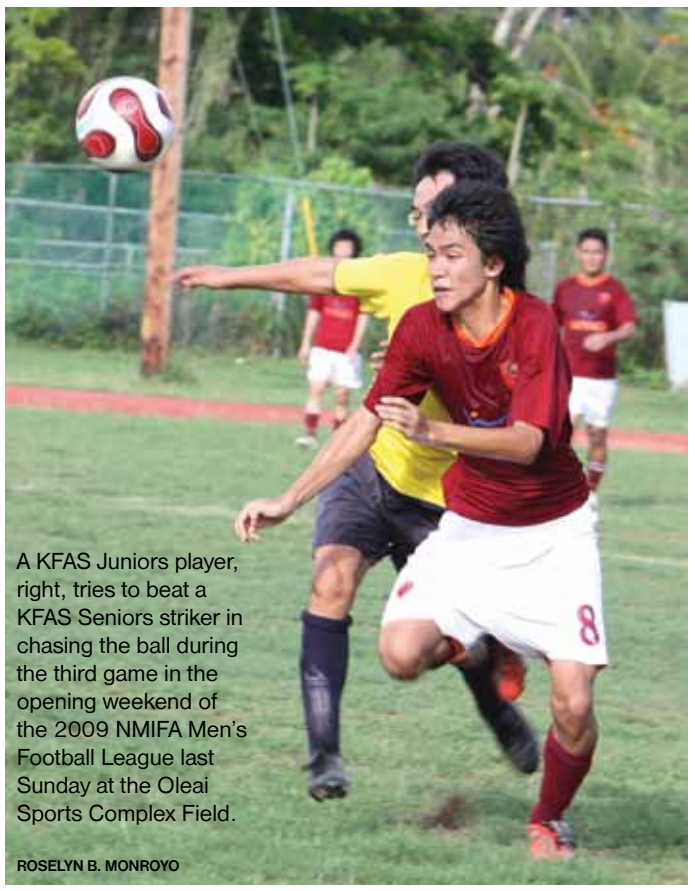
Kamrul tallied three goals for Matansa, while Halim Khan, Semisi Detave, and Dan Westpal had one apiece.

Only two players scored for MP United with Joe Miller and Dae Won Jeon drilling two each.

In the third game, KFAS Juniors slipped past their senior counterparts, 3-2. Kang Su Ho and Kim Jong Hyung had one goal apiece for KFAS Juniors, which drew one more goal from an unnamed player in the first half. Kim Kwang Sik made one of KFAS Seniors' two goals.

In the second game, fall league champion Inter was forced to a 3-all draw by newcomer Remington.

Chris Guerrero, Chris Nelson and Masa Otsaka nailed one goal apiece for Inter, while a certain Jack and Adachi had one each for Remington. Remington's third goal was an own goal in the second half.



A KFAS Juniors player, right, tries to beat a KFAS Seniors striker in chasing the ball during the third game in the opening weekend of the 2009 NMIFA Men's Football League last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Independent Football Club drew a bye in the opening day of the league and will debut this Sunday against KFAS Seniors at 2pm.

KFAS Juniors will take on MP United in the first game this Sunday at 12pm, while Inter will face Matansa in the last game of the weekend at 4pm.

Meanwhile, organizers of the league are reminding players of the deadline for the submission of entry fees.

"All players must submit their $25 and registration forms by the second week of the season, while all team fees should be made as soon as possible. Clubs which fail to submit their $300 team fee by the end of round one will forfeit their remaining games," said Brad Ruszala, who is co-organizing the league with Jaime Saiki.

For more information about the upcoming men's league, contact Saiki at 287-9810 or Ruszala at 287-2723.

NUMA

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Hearted, which missed key players Mili Saiki and Louise Oakley and had to rely on a guest player in the first round and Saipan Souther's Loveme Phillip in the last two games, was paired against Hits for Brain in the other semis match and eked out a 30-29 win to claim the second final seat.

The finals was neck-and-neck before Numa Numa smelled blood, moving two points away from clinching the crown, 23-20. The pennant champion was one point down from wrapping up the finals when Nathan Chargualaf tried to save the ball from the right sideline and failed.

The game point was a perfect ending for Numa Numa, as Sharry set up Saito for a monster kill at the right side of Numa Numa's net against the towering Bruce Berline.

In the battle for third place, Spankers pulled off a come-from-behind 25-22 win over Hits for Brain.

Spankers fell behind by four, 18-22, before Hits for Brains committed one mistake after another, allowing Jazz Roscow and company to steal the game.

BAYANI

From Page 28

night with a 118-73 demolition of Cabalen.

The SIP-NMBA tiff was tied at 59-all after the third period before James Villacrusis and Edsel Mendoza teamed up in the fourth quarter and lifted the defending champions to victory.

Villacrusis exploded for 16 points in the final canto, drilling three triples, while Mendoza chipped in nine. Mendoza was also perfect from the foul line in the fourth, going 3-for-3, while Villacrusis went 3-for-4 to help SIP bounce back from its debut loss against MDX.

In the second game, Bayani picked up where it left off to improve to a 2-0 record and join MDX in the lead.

Bayani led by double digits with less than eight minutes left in the fourth quarter when their June 4 game was stopped due to rain. When the game resumed, Bayani was still in tough form to keep the win.

Darwin Barbo and Ronald Delos Reyes' two-pointers put the finishing touches on Bayani's second-half recovery. Bayani fell behind in the first half most of the way before Glenn Aquino's 12 third-quarter points changed the team's fortunes, as they led, 75-65 entering the fourth canto. Barbo and Delos Reyes picked up where Aquino left off to hand SMF its first loss in two games.

Delos Reyes and Dennis Vinas led Bayani with their 16 points apiece, while Barbo chipped in 14.

Bonbon Cadagat paced SMF with 27 markers, while Jericho Cruz contributed 20, but did not play in the resumption of the match.

In the third game, VisMinda cruised to back-to-back wins after whipping Cabalen, which kept its foe within striking distance only in the first period.

VisMinda, which lost its first game of the season against Bayani, led by only seven at the end of the first canto, 26-19, but began stepping on the gas in the second period en route to a 52-34 halftime lead.

Cabalen never recovered from thereon and VisMinda tasted its biggest lead at 47 points, 114-67, going into the last two minutes of the fourth quarter.

First Game

SIP 89 – Villacrusis 18, Mendoza 15, Talania 15, Mendiola 13, Esdrelon 11, Camacho 6, Factor 4, Palero 3, Punzalan 2.

NMBA 82 – Gapor 16, Opone 15, Umali 13, Macoto 10, Rebuyon 9, De Guzman 8, Estolas 7, Duenas 4.

Scoring by quarters: 19-17, 36-41, 59-59, 89-82.

Second Game

Bayani 95 – Vinas 16, Delos Reyes 16, Barbo 14, Aquino 12, Tabora 8, Sanciangco 7, Palma 6, Abuy 6, Tolentino 5, Cabrera 2, Lansang 2, Ong 1.

SMF 86 – Cadagat 27, Cruz 20, Lerio 13, Tagle 4, Apelo 4, Pagarao 4, Itaas 4, Mendoza 4, Moises 4, Arreza 4.

Scoring by quarters: 23-24, 48-50, 75-65, 95-86.

Third Game

VisMinda 118 – Peredo 18, Joyner 14, Dayrit 14, Manalo 12, Gamboa 12, Barrios 10, Morales 10, Bicera 9, Cosino 6, Hernandez 5, Mateo 4, Artates 2, Veloso 2.

Cabalen 73 – Mina 22, Guiang 19, Paras 6, Tobias 4, Basa 4, Ortega 4, Guinto 4, Badayat 3, Curutan 3, Echaluche 2.

Scoring by quarters: 26-19, 52-34, 70-57, 113-73.

ADVENTURE

From Page 28

them down waterfalls, walk through marshes, and more adventure racing activities.

Team Bat Patrol finished first overall in GEAR 9 in a time of 13 hours and nine minutes. It consisted of David Spegler, Rodney Bordallo, Matt Suess, and Mark Walters.

GEAR is a 24-hour multisport competition and is the only one of its kind held in the Micronesian islands. The event is sanctioned by the United States Adventure Racing Association and is open to participants over the age of 18.

The extreme adventure race takes participants, in teams of four people, co-ed, all male, or all female—through Guam's lush jungles and scenic beaches, and into its picturesque bays and crystal-clear waters. The race is not a relay; rather all team members must stay together throughout each race segment.

GOLF

From Page 28

Kosam, meanwhile, said that RGA has already scheduled tryouts in the event the Commonwealth's golf leaders do decide to send a team to Rarotonga.

"Due to the short notice, we have scheduled a two-day tryout only which dates and venue will be discuss during this meeting. I kindly ask those interested to please attend this urgent meeting," he added.

For more information regarding the formation of the CNMI national golf team, contact Kosam at 483-4506.

The 2009 Pacific Mini Games in Cook Islands will run from Sept. 21 to Oct. 2.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	36	24	.600	—
New York	34	26	.567	2
Toronto	34	28	.548	3
Tampa Bay	31	31	.500	6
Baltimore	25	35	.417	11

Central Division

Detroit	33	27	.550	—
Minnesota	30	32	.484	4
Chicago	28	33	.459	5 1/2
Cleveland	27	35	.435	7
Kansas City	25	34	.424	7 1/2

West Division

Texas	34	25	.576	—
Seattle	30	30	.500	4 1/2
Los Angeles	29	29	.500	4 1/2
Oakland	27	32	.458	7

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	35	23	.603	—
New York	31	27	.534	4
Atlanta	29	30	.492	6 1/2
Florida	29	33	.468	8
Washington	16	42	.276	19

Central Division

Milwaukee	33	27	.550	—
St. Louis	33	28	.541	1/2
Cincinnati	31	28	.525	1 1/2
Chicago	29	28	.509	2 1/2
Pittsburgh	28	32	.467	5
Houston	27	31	.466	5

West Division

Los Angeles	40	21	.656	—
San Francisco	31	28	.525	8
San Diego	28	31	.475	11
Colorado	28	32	.467	11 1/2
Arizona	26	35	.426	14

Yesterday's Games

St. Louis 6, Florida 5
Pittsburgh 3, Atlanta 1
Houston 2, Chicago Cubs 1, 13 innings
Colorado 5, Milwaukee 4
Arizona 2, San Francisco 1
Washington 3, Cincinnati 2
Philadelphia 6, N.Y. Mets 3, 10 innings
Chicago White Sox 4, Detroit 3
Oakland 4, Minnesota 3
Cleveland 4, Kansas City 3, 10 innings
Seattle 6, Baltimore 3
Tampa Bay 11, L.A. Angels 1
Boston 4, N.Y. Yankees 3
Texas 1, Toronto 0

ST. JUDE CLASSIC SCORES

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP)–Scores Thursday from the St. Jude Classic, a $5.6 million US PGA Tour event at 7,239-yard, par-70 (35-35) TPC Southwind (a-amateur):

First Round

Brian Gay	31-33–64
Jimmy Walker	33-32–65
Jose Maria Olazabal	32-34–66
Mathias Gronberg	33-33–66
Chris Stroud	32-34–66
Rich Beem	33-33–66
Graeme McDowell	32-34–66
Fredrik Jacobson	34-33–67
Jerry Kelly	32-35–67
Robert Allenby	35-32–67
David Toms	34-33–67
Vaughn Taylor	31-36–67
Richard Johnson	33-34–67
Woody Austin	34-33–67
Loren Roberts	34-33–67
Guy Boros	33-34–67
Ricky Barnes	33-34–67
Vance Veazey	31-36–67
Tag Ridings	33-35–68
Greg Chalmers	33-35–68
Phil Mickelson	33-35–68
Cameron Beckman	35-33–68
Camilo Villegas	33-35–68
Scott Verplank	34-34–68
Patrick Sheehan	36-32–68
Jeff Overton	32-36–68
Brad Adamonis	32-36–68
Notah Begay III	32-36–68
Derek Fathauer	32-36–68
Jarrod Lyle	35-33–68
Lee Janzen	31-37–68
Jason Dufner	33-35–68
Retief Goosen	33-35–68
Tim Herron	34-34–68
David Mathis	33-35–68
Kevin Stadler	36-33–69
Jason Bohn	36-33–69
Harrison Frazar	34-35–69
Ben Crane	35-34–69
Robert Garrigus	35-34–69
Glen Day	34-35–69
Troy Matteson	34-35–69
Frank Lickliter II	32-37–69
Spencer Levin	33-36–69
a-Cameron Peck	35-34–69
J.P. Hayes	32-37–69
Dicky Pride	33-36–69
John Senden	33-36–69
Brett Quigley	34-35–69
Boo Weekley	33-36–69
Chris DiMarco	30-39–69
Bob Estes	33-36–69
Bryce Molder	33-36–69
Marc Leishman	35-34–69
Tyler Aldridge	35-34–69
Bob Tway	32-38–70
Scott McCarron	35-35–70
Michael Letzig	34-36–70
Bart Bryant	36-34–70
Marc Turnesa	34-36–70
Steve Allan	34-36–70
James Nitties	34-36–70
Webb Simpson	33-37–70
Martin Laird	35-35–70
Aaron Watkins	33-37–70
Matt Weibring	35-35–70
Bob Heintz	34-36–70
David Berganio, Jr.	34-36–70
Matthew Borchert	35-35–70
Jason Day	33-37–70
Nathan Green	35-35–70
Michael Bradley	33-37–70
Sergio Garcia	35-35–70
Tim Clark	35-35–70
Tom Pernice, Jr.	32-38–70
Jay Delsing	36-34–70
J.J. Henry	34-36–70
Omar Uresti	35-35–70
Roland Thatcher	34-36–70
David Gossett	34-36–70
James Oh	35-35–70
Paul Stankowski	35-36–71
Peter Lonard	36-35–71
David Duval	34-37–71
Richard S. Johnson	31-40–71
D.J. Trahan	34-37–71
Brian Bateman	37-34–71
Shaun Micheel	36-35–71
Heath Slocum	33-38–71
Charles Howell III	35-36–71
Michael Allen	36-35–71
Cliff Kresge	36-35–71
Tim Wilkinson	34-37–71
Bill Lunde	37-34–71
Billy Horschel	34-37–71
Jesper Parnevik	34-38–72
Padraig Harrington	36-36–72
Greg Kraft	35-37–72
Steve Lowery	36-36–72
Chris Riley	33-39–72
Kris Blanks	36-36–72
Troy Kelly	34-38–72
Brendon de Jonge	37-35–72
Gary Woodland	34-38–72
Neal Lancaster	36-36–72
Nick O'Hern	36-36–72
John Merrick	34-38–72
Mark Brooks	38-34–72
Paul Goydos	35-37–72
John Daly	34-38–72
Ronnie Black	35-37–72
Jason Gore	35-37–72
Doug Barron	34-38–72
Rodney Butcher	37-35–72
Ted Purdy	39-34–73
Dean Wilson	35-38–73
Eric Axley	36-37–73
Carlos Franco	35-38–73
Wil Collins	34-39–73
Kelvin Burgin	36-37–73
Chris Smith	33-40–73
Jay Williamson	37-36–73
Andres Romero	36-37–73
Henrik Stenson	38-35–73
Carl Pettersson	36-37–73
Kirk Triplett	35-38–73
Robin Freeman	36-37–73
Tim Petrovic	37-36–73
Brendon Todd	35-38–73
Aron Price	38-35–73
Brian Vranesh	36-37–73
Joe Durant	39-35–74
Charles Warren	36-38–74
Jeff Maggert	35-39–74
Stephen Ames	37-37–74
Will MacKenzie	39-35–74
Parker McLachlin	35-39–74
Brandt Snedeker	37-37–74
Scott Sterling	34-40–74
Casey Wittenberg	36-38–74
a-Rob Garland	35-39–74
Rick Price	34-40–74
Jonathan Kaye	34-41–75
Aaron Baddeley	36-39–75
Stephen Leaney	38-37–75
Darron Stiles	37-38–75
Matt Jones	38-37–75
Scott Gutschewski	36-39–75
Justin Leonard	37-39–76
Colt Knost	39-37–76
Peter Tomasulo	40-36–76
Kent Jones	36-40–76
Bill Haas	39-38–77
Edward Loar	38-39–77
Tommy Gainey	39-39–78
Leif Olson	41-41–82

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

UFO STANDINGS

MDX	2	0
Bayani	2	0
VisMinda	2	1
SMF	1	1
SIP	1	1
NMBA	0	2
Cabalen	0	3

Derek Fisher saves Lakers in Game 4

Fisher forced overtime with a 3-pointer with 4.6 seconds left in regulation and then drilled another one with 31.3 seconds to go in overtime as the Los Angeles Lakers outlasted the Orlando Magic 99-91 in Game 4. 25

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Matansa, Korean Juniors strikers win men's league debuts

Matansa Football Club and the Korean Football Association of Saipan Juniors started their campaign in the 2009 NMIFA Men's Football League last Sunday. 27

Numa Numa rules 4-person beach V-ball

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members of Numa Numa pose for a group photo after beating Hoof Hearted in the finals of the 2009 Miller Lite/Monster Energy Drink 4-Person Beach Volleyball League last Thursday night on the Pacific Islands Club sand court.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Numa Numa capped its unbeaten season in the 2009 Miller Lite/Monster Energy Drink 4-Person Beach Volleyball League with a title win over Hoof Hearted last Thursday night on the Pacific Islands Club sand court.

Numa Numa, which finished the round-robin regular season with an 11-0 slate, completed its domination of the league with a 25-20 finals victory over Hoof Hearted.

The winning team is composed of Typhoon Saito, Yumi Sharry, Theresa Miller, Mika Okubo, Ota Nobuyuli, and Lindsay Galion.

With its sweep of the regular season, Numa Numa was seeded first in the playoffs and was paired against the eighth-ranked Angry Red Dragon.

Unlike in the regular season games where teams played three sets in a race to 21 points per set, each match in the playoffs was only a race to 25 points game and race to 30 at a maximum.

Numa Numa pushed Angry Red Dragon to the exit door early via a 25-23 win, while three other squads joined the pennant champion to the next round.

The No. 5 Spankers stunned the No. 4 UMESSUPUOUT, 25-17, second-ranked Hits For Brains outclassed seventh placed MHS One Heart, 26-24, and No. 3 Hoof Hearted defeated No. 6 Plum Smugglers, 25-20.

In the semifinals, Numa Numa ended Spankers' giant-killing ways, pulling off a 25-19 to advance to the finals.

The Rob Epley-led Hoof

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Bayani beats SMF, keeps clean slate

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 7th United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball League made up for its absence last week with a triple treat offering Thursday night at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

Samahang Ilokano and Pangasinense dueled Northern Marianas Bartenders Association in the curtain-raiser with the defending champion pulling off an 89-82 triumph.

The second game of the night featured the continuation of the rain-halted match between Bayani and Samahang Manggagawang Filipino with the former nailing a 95-86 win.

VisMinda closed out the

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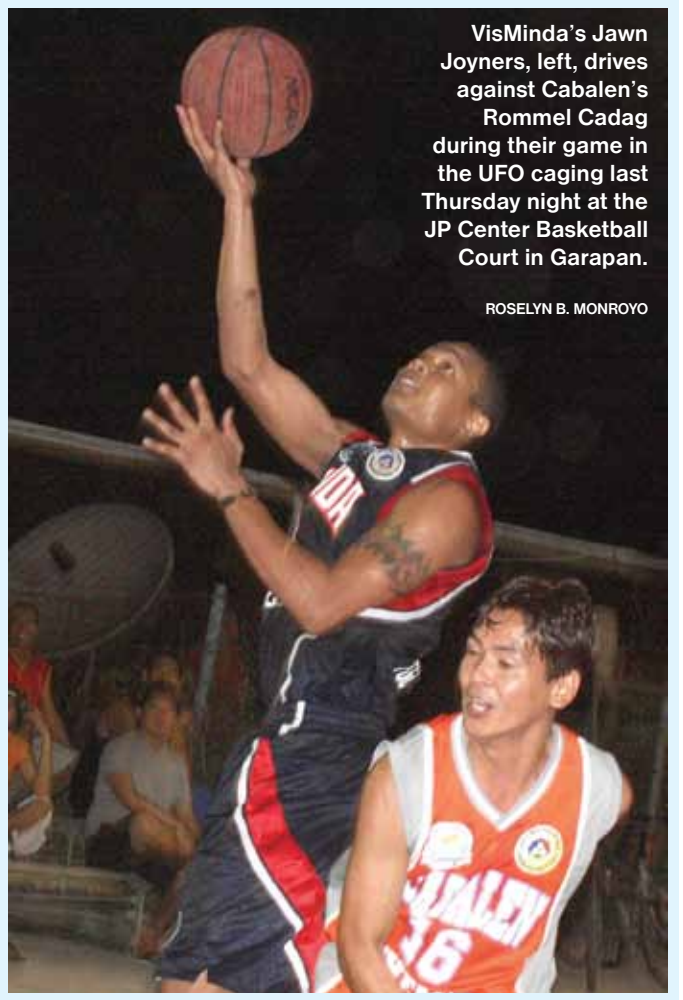

VisMinda's Jawn Joyners, left, drives against Cabalen's Rommel Cadag during their game in the UFO caging last Thursday night at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Adventure Junkies finish 2nd in GEAR

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Saipan Adventure Junkies finished second in the 9th Annual Guam Extreme Adventure Race last May 24 in the U.S. territory.

The team was made up of Tyce Mister, Ken Pierson, Yosh Gabaldon, and Quincy Johnson and finished the grueling race in 14 hours and 40 minutes behind only a team from Japan.

The ninth staging of GEAR started early in the morning and took the 20 teams to a veritable tour of Guam with only a map as form of guidance. It ended in the evening at the Windward Hills Country Club.

This year participants had to climb treacherous waterfalls, coasteer along ocean cliff ledges, hike their bikes and lower

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Adventure Junkies are all smiles after completing the 9th Annual Guam Extreme Adventure Race last May 24 in the U.S. territory. From left, Tyce Mister, Quincy Johnson, Yosh Gabaldon, and Ken Pierson.

Golf mulls Mini Games participation

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Refaluwasch Golf Association is looking at the possibility of sending players to the 2009 Pacific Mini Games in Cook Islands and is calling on the golfing community to make it happen.

Kosam

RGA president Jordon Kosam has set a meeting this Wednesday, June 17, 6:30pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium to discuss the topic.

"Our goal is to come up with a CNMI national golf team and coordinate the efforts to represent the great CNMI in this upcoming Mini Games. Time is of the essence but it's important that we meet and discuss urgent issues and focus our efforts getting the team to Rarotonga," he said.

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael A. White last week urged the tennis, golf, and athletic bodies to send teams to the Cook Islands.

He said the CNMI's participation in the quadrennial event will bode well for the islands' hosting of future athletic events.

White added that NMASA is open to subsidizing the cost of athletes willing to take part in the Mini Games.

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